45
JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY
DEC.

JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY

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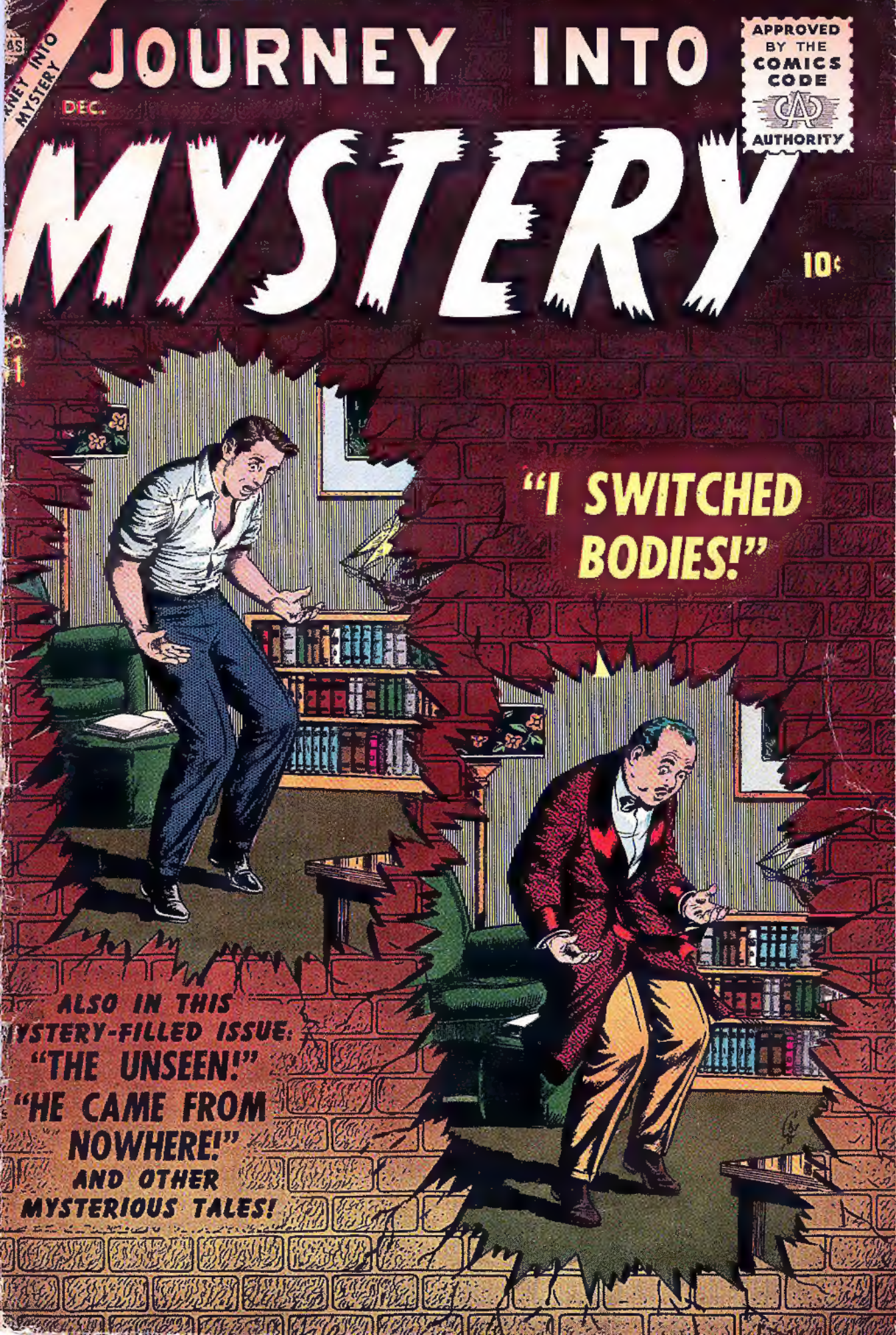
10¢

No. 1



ALSO IN THIS MYSTERY-FILLED ISSUE:
"THE UNSEEN!"
"HE CAME FROM NOWHERE!"
AND OTHER MYSTERIOUS TALES!

ATLAS

JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY

JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY

DEC.

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NO. 41

"WE'LL RIPPLE YOUR BODY WITH MUSCLES and LOAD T·N·T IN YOUR FISTS"

Say JOE LOUIS and BOB COUSY

Playmaker Bob builds up your stamina . . . no matter what your size!

Let Champions give you power and confidence . . . they promise solid new muscles in ten days

I wish you could come with Bob and me to Lou Stillman's famous training headquarters . . . see for yourself how the Champions build their bodies and keep physically fit. It's easy to do and lots of fun!

Are you fat and flabby? Watch Ted Kluszewski show his surefire method to remove fat. Tired and nervous? See Kid Gavilan's tested plan to liven you up. Want powerful shoulders? Doak Walker has a proven body builder that gives you results . . . FAST!

If you want to be a star athlete or look like one . . . let these great Stars and me help you. Just 15 minutes a day makes you a real man – no matter what your size. Find out by mailing the coupon.

I'll send you my "Fight Secrets" for just 10¢ – so that you'll be sure to write me. Get off the bench – into the game. Send me the coupon right now!

Sincerely,

Joe Louis

Are You . . .

- Weak
- Skinny
- Fat and Flabby
- Always Being Picked On?

Act Now . . LET THESE CHAMPIONS POINT YOUR WAY TO ATHLETIC GLORY

TED KLUSZEWSKI explains his sure-fire method to remove fat . . . stimulate circulation and loosen you up for action . . . IN LITTLE TIME.

YOGI BERRA the American League's most valuable player, builds up your confidence . . . LOTS OF FUN.

DOAK WALKER gives you his special toe-shoeing method. Builds your shoulders and neck into "shock absorbers" for football . . . WITH LITTLE EFFORT.

KID GAVILAN reveals his secrets of split-second timing . . . increases your resistance to fatigue with his tested training camp workout . . . WORKS WONDERS.

Win new popularity. Guaranteed to add solid inches to your chest. Easy . . . At Home . . . In less than 15 minutes a day!

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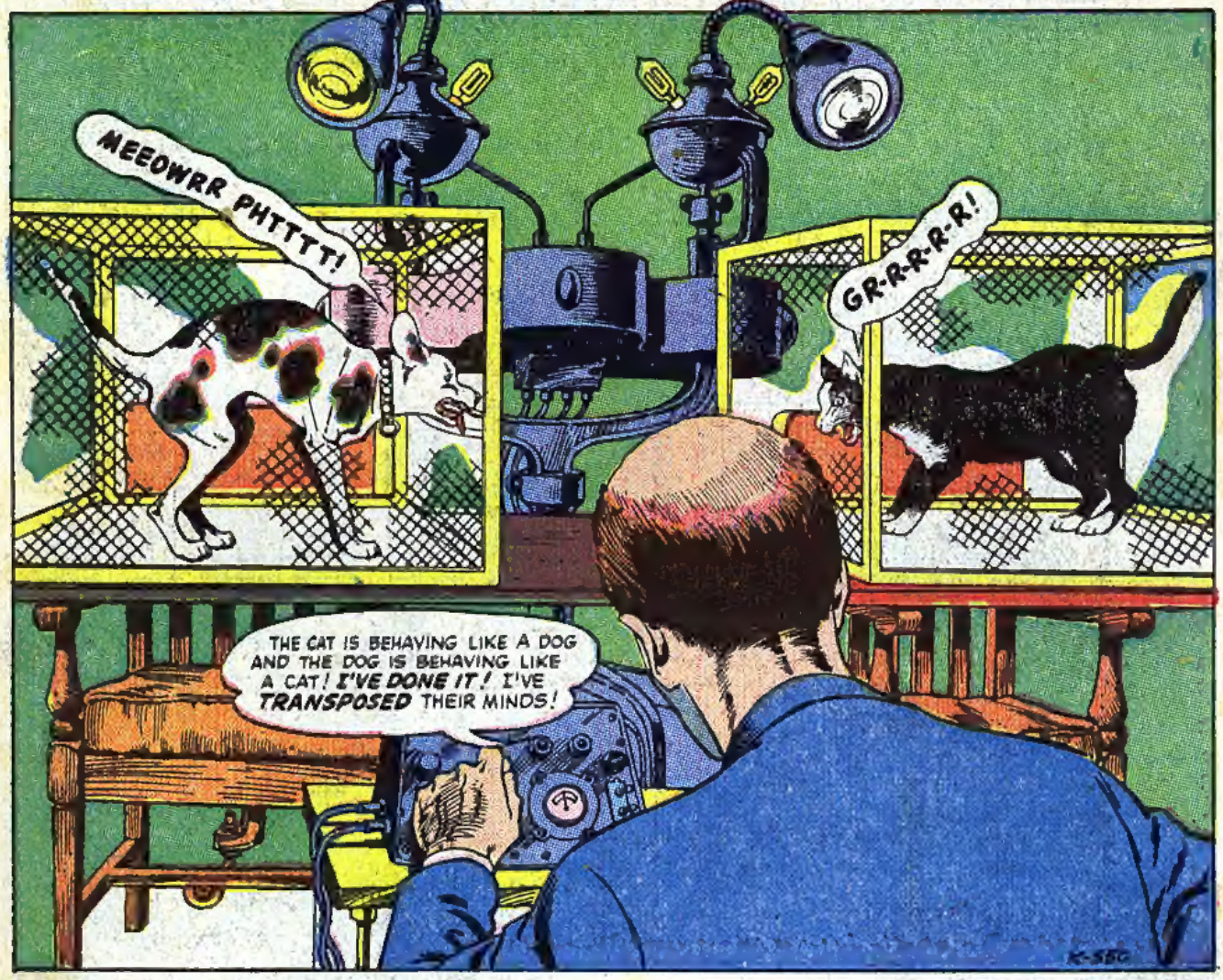
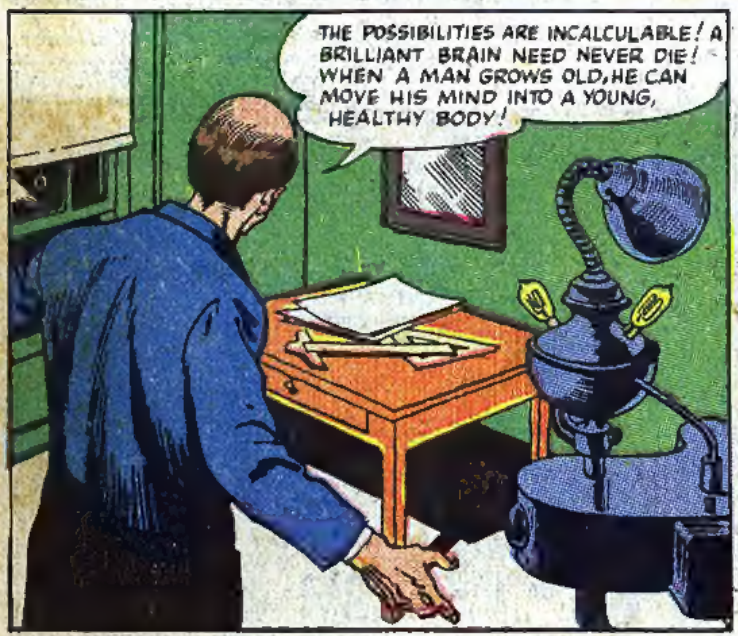
BRADFORD'S DISCOVERY WAS AN AMAZING SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT! BUT HE SHOULD NEVER HAVE USED IT FOR HIS OWN SELFISH ENDS!

I SWITCHED BODIES!


MEEOWRR PHTTTT!
GR-R-R-R-R!
THE CAT IS BEHAVING LIKE A DOG AND THE DOG IS BEHAVING LIKE A CAT! I'VE DONE IT! I'VE TRANSPOSED THEIR MINDS!
K-SBC


THE POSSIBILITIES ARE INCALCULABLE! A BRILLIANT BRAIN NEED NEVER DIE! WHEN A MAN GROWS OLD, HE CAN MOVE HIS MIND INTO A YOUNG, HEALTHY BODY!

IF BRADFORD HAD NOT BEEN SO OLD, IT MIGHT NEVER HAVE HAPPENED! BUT HE WAS AND SO LATER THERE WERE THE DARK BROODING THOUGHTS!

IT WOULD BE SO EASY! WHY SHOULD I DIE? MY BRAIN IS IMPORTANT! I CAN LIVE FOREVER, JUST BY STEALING SOMEONE ELSE'S BODY!

WHY SHOULD A STRONG, HEALTHY BODY BE WASTED ON SOME FOOL WITH AN ORDINARY MIND? IT ISN'T FAIR!

WHAT HAPPENED IN THE END WAS INEVITABLE... BRADFORD WANTED TO LIVE AT ANY COST, SO SOMEONE ELSE HAD TO SUFFER...

THAT ONE COMING UP THE BLOCK... HE'S PERFECT!

HEY! WHAT IN...

DON'T MAKE A SOUND! YOU'RE GOING WITH ME!

YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE, YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG MAN! MISTER, PLEASE LET ME GO! I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO DO!

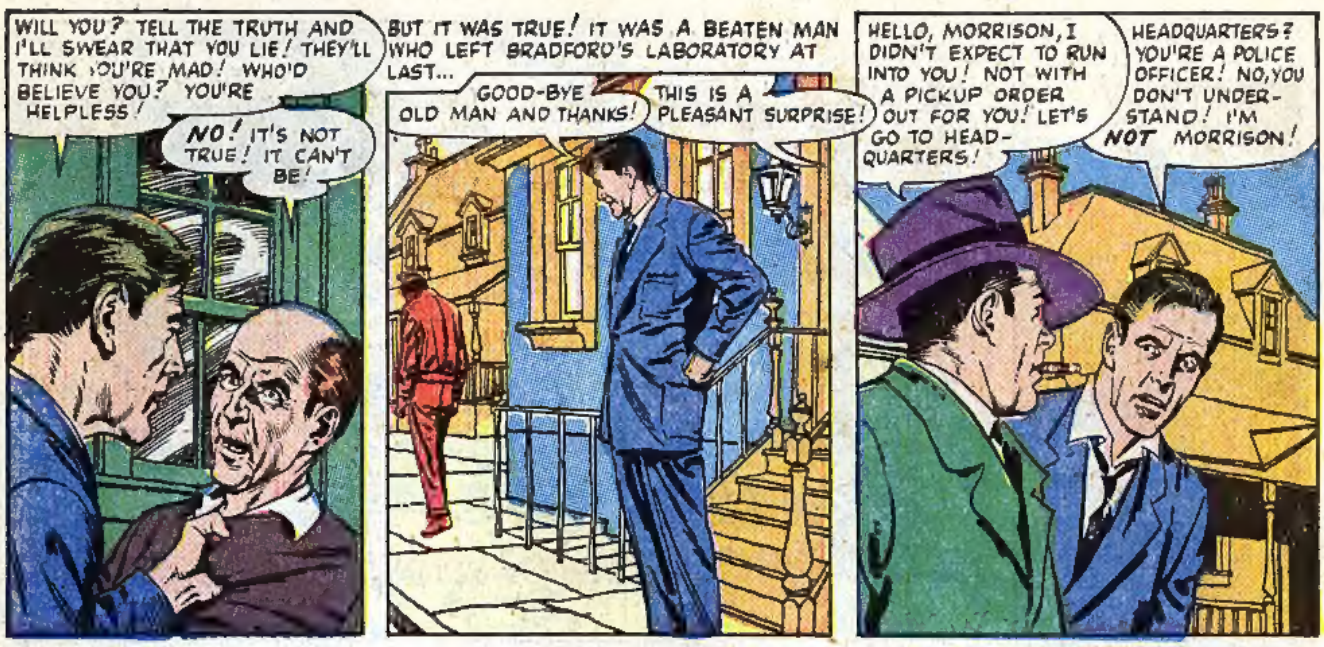
SO HAVE I, BUT I CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU! PUT YOUR HANDS DOWN AND WALK AHEAD OF ME...I'LL TELL YOU WHERE!

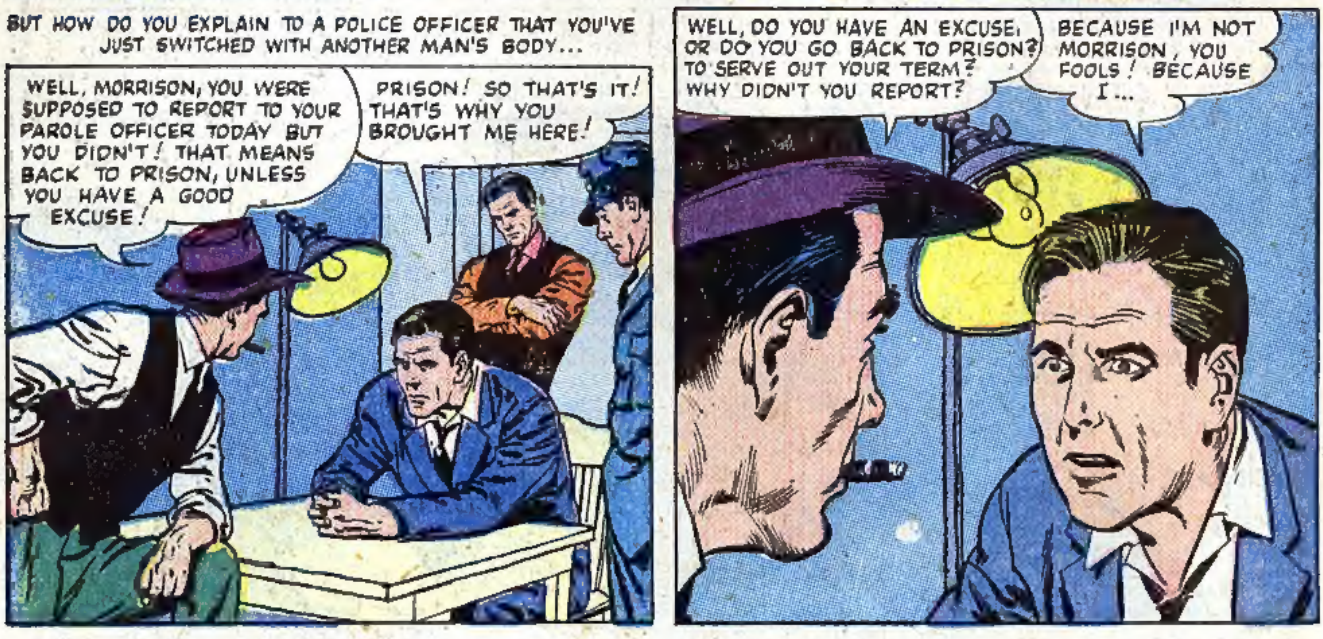
SOMEONE ELSE HAD TO SUFFER BUT BRADFORD WASTED NO TIME ON PITY...

MISTER, PLEASE! YOU DON'T WANT ME! I'VE GOT TO KEEP AN APPOINTMENT! I'M LATE!

THIS WON'T TAKE LONG! COOPERATE, AND IT WILL BE OVER IN A MOMENT... THEN YOU CAN GO!

I'M A SCIENTIST AND I NEED YOUR HELP! IF YOU'LL JUST SIT WHERE YOU ARE FOR A FEW MOMENTS, I'LL TURN YOU LOOSE UNHARMED, AGREED?
UNHARMED? I DON'T UNDERSTAND, BUT ALL RIGHT! I'VE GOT TO KEEP THAT APPOINTMENT AND SOON!
BRADFORD LIED, BUT WHAT IS A MERE LIE IN THE FACE OF THE CRIME HE WAS ABOUT TO COMMIT!
JUST RELAX, YOU WON'T BE HURT! YOU'LL JUST FEEL A SLIGHT TINGLE IN YOUR HEAD WHEN I PUSH THE BUTTON!
LIKE THIS!
A SPLIT SECOND, AND SUDDENLY BRADFORD WAS LAUGHING WITH THE SHEER JOY OF NEW-FOUND YOUTH AND STRENGTH...
IT WORKED! I'VE MADE THE SWITCH! NOW, I HAVE HIS BODY!
WHAT HAPPENED? I FEEL WEAK!
NO! I MUST BE LOSING MY MIND! THAT'S NOT ME! IT'S YOU!
EXACTLY! I'VE SWITCHED BODIES WITH YOU AND THERE'S NOTHING YOU OR ANYONE ELSE CAN DO ABOUT IT! NOTHING!
YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS!
THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG! I WILL!
NOW, YOU LISTEN! WHAT CAN YOU DO, FIGHT ME? I'M TOO STRONG FOR YOU!
ALL RIGHT! I CAN'T FIGHT YOU, BUT I'LL TELL THE WHOLE WORLD! I'LL SEE THAT YOU PAY!

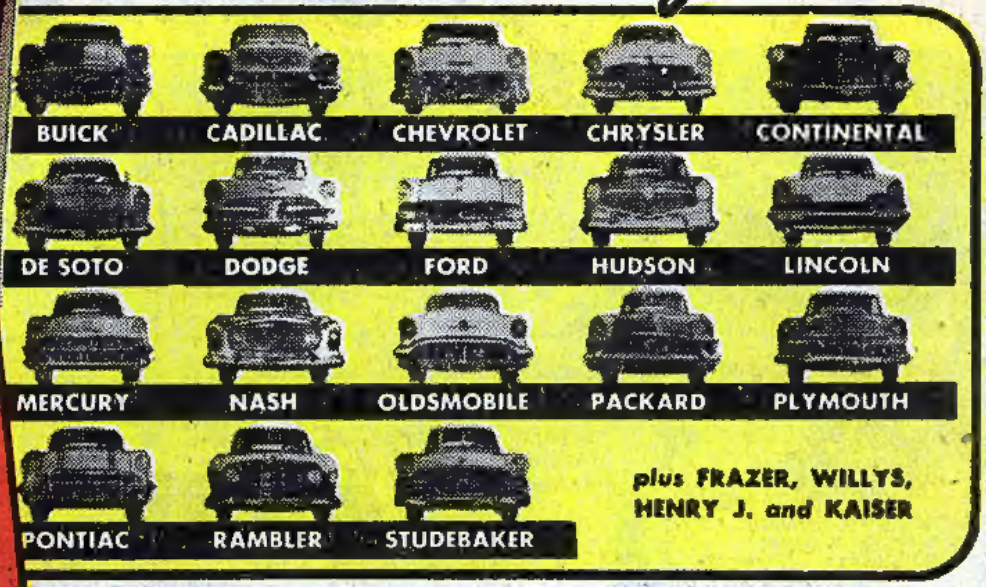

WILL YOU? TELL THE TRUTH AND I'LL SWEAR THAT YOU LIE! THEY'LL THINK YOU'RE MAD! WHO'D BELIEVE YOU? YOU'RE HELPLESS!
NO! IT'S NOT TRUE! IT CAN'T BE!
BUT IT WAS TRUE! IT WAS A BEATEN MAN WHO LEFT BRADFORD'S LABORATORY AT LAST...
GOOD-BYE OLD MAN AND THANKS!
THIS IS A PLEASANT SURPRISE!
HELLO, MORRISON, I DIDN'T EXPECT TO RUN INTO YOU! NOT WITH A PICKUP ORDER OUT FOR YOU! LET'S GO TO HEADQUARTERS!
HEADQUARTERS? YOU'RE A POLICE OFFICER! NO, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! I'M NOT MORRISON!


BUT HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN TO A POLICE OFFICER THAT YOU'VE JUST SWITCHED WITH ANOTHER MAN'S BODY...
WELL, MORRISON, YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO REPORT TO YOUR PAROLE OFFICER TODAY BUT YOU DIDN'T! THAT MEANS BACK TO PRISON, UNLESS YOU HAVE A GOOD EXCUSE!
PRISON! SO THAT'S IT! THAT'S WHY YOU BROUGHT ME HERE!
WELL, DO YOU HAVE AN EXCUSE, OR DO YOU GO BACK TO PRISON? TO SERVE OUT YOUR TERM? WHY DIDN'T YOU REPORT?
BECAUSE I'M NOT MORRISON, YOU FOOLS! BECAUSE I...

BRADFORD ALMOST TOLD THE TRUTH BUT IF HE DID, HE WOULD BE CONSIDERED MAD! NO! BETTER TO PRETEND TO BE MORRISON, TO SERVE A FEW YEARS IN PRISON! BUT...
YOU CRIMINALS ARE ALWAYS TRYING TO SHOW HOW TOUGH YOU ARE! YOU'RE A FOURTH OFFENDER, MORRISON... YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR SENTENCE WILL BE... LIFE!!!
LIFE IMPRISONMENT! THIS WAS MORE THAN HE HAD BARGAINED FOR! THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT TO DO NOW BUT TELL THE TRUTH, FIND THE "OLD MAN" AND RECLAIM HIS OWN BODY!
YOU'RE LUCKY, BRADFORD! A FEW YEARS IN PRISON FOR MALPRACTICE IS NOTHING, COMPARED WITH WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A LIFETIME BEHIND BARS!
THE END

FIX ANY CAR EASIER!

...and twice as fast!



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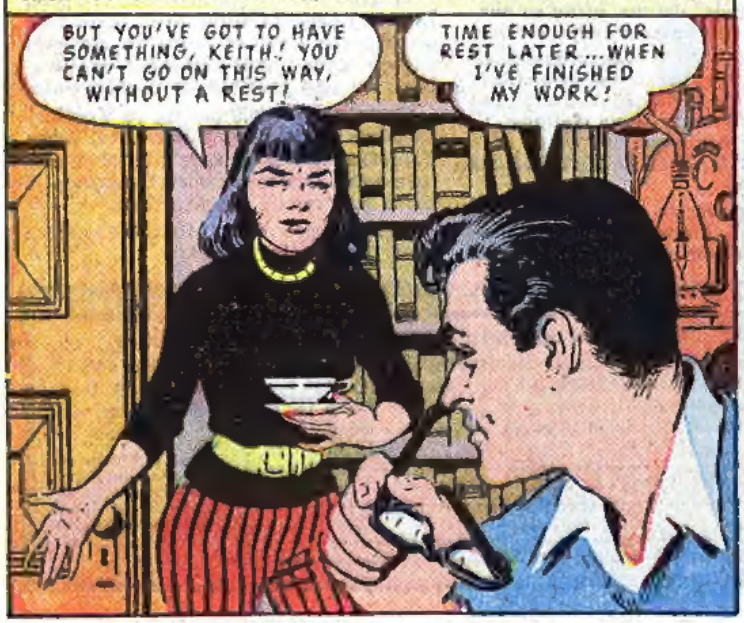
HIGH ATOP THE BLEAK HILL, BENEATH THE UNFRIENDLY FLASHES OF LIGHTNING AND SPLATTERING RAIN, THE HOUSE STOOD DARK AND GLOOMY, EXCEPT FOR A SINGLE, SOLITARY LIGHT! WHAT WAS THIS PLACE? WHO LIVED HERE? WHAT DARK SECRET DID IT HIDE?

He came from NOWHERE

BUT THE ANSWERS COULD ONLY COME FROM WITHIN, IN THE BRILLIANTLY LIT LABORATORY WHERE A YOUNG SCIENTIST LABORED OVER HIS NOTES, WHILE HIS YOUNG WIFE STOOD BY...


BUT YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE SOMETHING, KEITH! YOU CAN'T GO ON THIS WAY, WITHOUT A REST!
TIME ENOUGH FOR REST LATER...WHEN I'VE FINISHED MY WORK!

WHEN THE GOVERNMENT SENT ME HERE, IT WAS WITH THE UTMOST SECRECY! OUR NEAREST NEIGHBOR IS MILES OFF! EVERYTHING HAS BEEN DONE TO SPEED UP MY FINAL EXPERIMENTS, AND STILL YOU ASK ME TO REST!
I DO SO ONLY BECAUSE I LOVE YOU!

I KNOW HOW IMPORTANT YOUR WORK IS, AND I KNOW HOW MUCH DEPENDS ON IT! IF YOUR FORMULA IS PROVEN A SUCCESS, IT WILL CHANGE OUR WORLD, THE ENTIRE FUTURE OF MAN... AND YET...
AND YET?

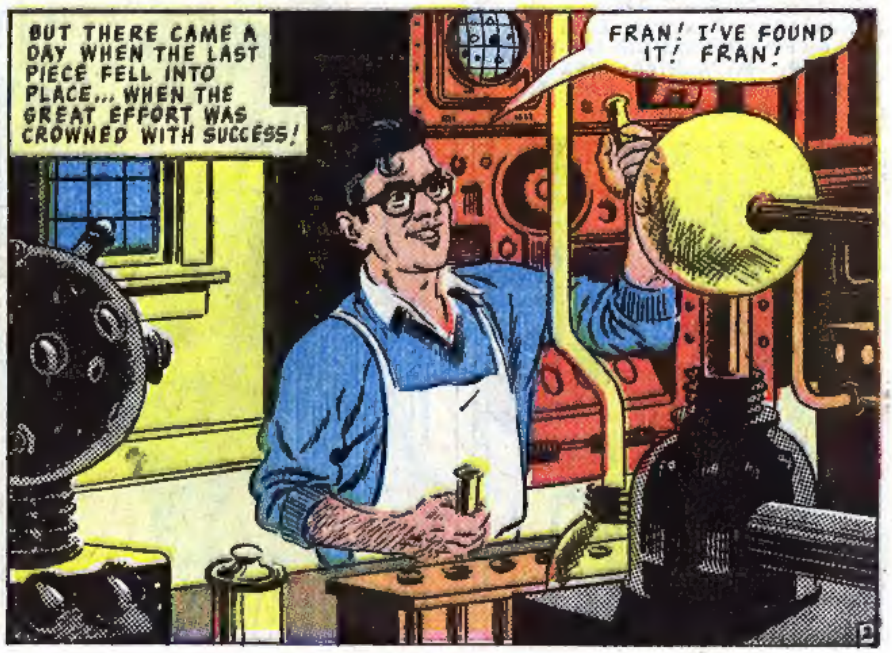
WELL, I DO WORRY ABOUT YOUR HEALTH, AND OTHER THINGS, TOO! THIS PLACE, SO LONELY REMOTE! THE SECRET WE HAVE TO MAINTAIN... AND THE OLD MAN... HE MOST OF ALL!
BUT HE'S ONLY AN OLD MAN!

AND WE DID NEED A CARETAKER OF SOME SORT! BESIDES, HIS CREDENTIALS WERE IN PERFECT ORDER! THE F.B.I. MADE A COMPLETE CHECK!
I SUPPOSE SO, DARLING ...BUT STILL...

THEY WERE INTERRUPTED BY THE LOW, DRY COUGH... THE SOUND SHE HAD LEARNED TO DISLIKE SO MUCH! HOW THE OLD MAN BOTHERED HER WITH HIS QUIET STEALTH, WITH HIS EXPRESSIONLESS FACE...
EVERYTHING IS LOCKED! WILL THAT BE ALL, SIR?
I SUPPOSE SO, BAKER! YOU CAN TURN IN NOW!

WHY CAN'T WE LET HIM GO? I'D FEEL SO MUCH BETTER!
BUT WHO COULD I GET TO REPLACE HIM UP HERE? WE'LL HAVE TO PUT UP WITH HIM... FOR A LITTLE WHILE LONGER, ANYWAY!

SO THE WORK WENT ON, THE LONG DAYS AND NIGHTS... THE FAILURES AND ALL THE ENSUING AGONY THAT ACCOMPANIED THEM...
IT'S STILL NOT RIGHT! GOT TO GO ON...


BUT THERE CAME A DAY WHEN THE LAST PIECE FELL INTO PLACE... WHEN THE GREAT EFFORT WAS CROWNED WITH SUCCESS!
FRAN! I'VE FOUND IT! FRAN!

IT WAS A GREAT MOMENT FOR EACH OF THEM... A MOMENT THEY HAD SO LONG LOOKED FORWARD TO.
THIS FORMULA CAN MEAN MANY THINGS! ITS POTENTIAL IS UNLIMITED!
I'M HAPPY THAT IT'S OVER! WE CAN LEAVE THIS PLACE.. BE GONE BY MORNING!

YOU WILL BE GONE... BEFORE MORNING!
WHAT?

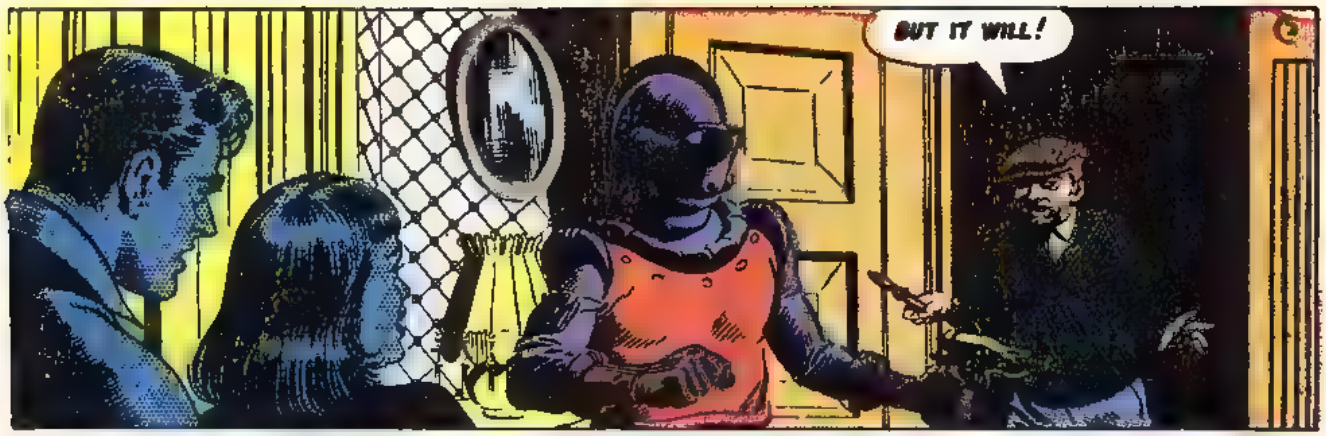
THEY TURNED, STUNNED BY WHAT THEY SAW CONFRONTING THEM...
WHO ARE YOU? HOW DID YOU GET IN?
I AM NOT OF YOUR TIME. BUT HAVE COME FROM THE DISTANT FUTURE! YOUR WORK, THIS HOUSE, EVERYTHING IN IT MUST BE DESTROYED!

THE FUTURE NATION I REPRESENT KNOWS THAT YOU ARE ON THE THRESHOLD OF A GREAT DISCOVERY! A FORMULA THAT CAN ALTER THE BALANCE OF WORLD POWER.. A BALANCE WE CONTROL AND WHICH MUSTN'T BE CHANGED!
HE'S MAD KEITH!

PERHAPS THIS WILL CONVINCE YOU!
A RAY GUN! HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH!

NOW YOU SEE WHY WE HAVE NO CHOICE! EVERYTHING HAS BEEN TIMED.. MY ARRIVAL HERE, AND MY DEPARTURE BACK TO MY OWN FUTURE TIME!

EVERYTHING HERE MUST BE DESTROYED! YOUR FORMULA MUST NEVER SEE THE LIGHT OF DAY!
3


BUT IT WILL!

OHHH!
BAKER!

MY WEAPON MERELY KNOCKED HIM UNCONSCIOUS BUT IT IS FORTUNATE THAT I CAME WHEN I DID!
THAT WEAPON YOU USED... SO TOTALLY DIFFERENT! WHO ARE YOU?

I AM ALSO OF A FUTURE TIME! THE SAME AS THIS ONE HERE, BUT FROM A DIFFERENT NATION! WE ALSO KNEW OF YOUR WORK, AND THAT IS WHY I WAS SENT HERE! I ALSO HAD A MISSION!
THEN YOU TOO...

I DID NOT COME TO DESTROY YOU FOR YOUR WORK! RATHER TO WATCH OVER YOU.. AND TO PREVENT WHAT ALMOST HAPPENED FROM HAPPENING! I AM GLAD I SUCCEEDED, AND NOW MY WORK IS FINISHED HERE..

YOU WILL PRESENT YOUR FORMULA TO YOUR GOVERNMENT WHERE IT WILL BE IN GOOD HANDS, AND THE FUTURE WORLD WILL NOT BE UNBALANCED.. WITH POWER IN THE HANDS OF A FEW! I LEAVE YOU NOW AND I WILL TAKE THIS ONE WITH ME!

A SMALL GADGET FROM HIS WAIST PRODUCED A BLINDING FLASH, AND WHEN THE GLARE SUBSIDED...
THEY'RE GONE, KEITH! BOTH OF THEM!
HOW CAN ANYONE BELIEVE US! BUT WE KNOW, FRAN! WE KNOW WHAT HAPPENED HERE... AND NOW MY WORK WILL NOT HAVE BEEN IN VAIN... THANKS TO HIM!

T.V. INVASION

JOHNNY was tired of his reputation as the kid brother who was always getting in people's hair.

"Why can't I help you out in the television shop, Bob," he pleaded with his older brother. "You know how I love to tinker around with mechanical things."

"Sure! You're a whiz at getting gismos out of order faster than anyone I know."

Bob grinned, but seeing the downcast look on Johnny's face, he relented. "Tell you what . . . A service call just came in from Edgemere. I'll hustle with the chassis I'm working on now, and I'll take you with me tonight on the Edgemere call. Grow yourself a set of wings in the meantime, and if you're real good, I may let you change a tube or two."

Johnny's spirits took a power dive and crash-landed him into a deep blue mood. He had to prove to Bob that he could help out on his own. He could probably handle the service call out in Edgemere without the least trouble. He would save Bob the trip and . . . His little day dream was too practical to toss away. He would do it! If he ran into any snags, he would take the TV set back to the shop with him, and that would be worth at least an *A* for effort.

"I'm going out for a soda," he called to Bob, who had already gone down to the basement of the store where he ran his workshop. Johnny took a pad and hurriedly scribbled the Edgemere address from Bob's call sheet. He picked up the handle of Bob's repair kit and left the store with the importance of a doctor about to perform his first mission of mercy.

Johnny drove the truck very carefully to the outskirts of town. Edgemere was a remote, rundown section of town, but Johnny was taken aback by the ramshackle building that answered to the call sheet address. Some of the windows of the house were boarded up, and the front lawn looked like a tangled jungle thicket.

He rang the bell, almost uncertain if anyone really lived in the place. His amazement grew when the door opened abruptly. A woman accompanied by several noisy kids tugging at her apron stared out at him.

"I'm the TV repair man," he said in a small voice.

"It's about time," she snapped. "I've been tempted to call someone in to fix their set without them knowing it. I never did hear such a racket and clanging. I'm the landlady here, and I've got other tenants to think about. People living out here like peace and quiet, but those two fellas make such a racket with that broken-down set. Always trying to fix it themselves, I figure. Wait, I'll get the key to their room. They're not home now."

Johnny tried to follow her down the hallway, but the kids pulled at his tool box as if it were a locker full of candy. The landlady waved him back. "Now, you're *not* going to make a racket *here* fixing that set. I'll get it for you . . . it isn't very big for all the funny sounds that come out of it. You take it on back to your shop and fuss with it there. The Masters . . . two brothers they are, get in around seven o'clock at night. Leave a card and I'll have them get in touch with you."

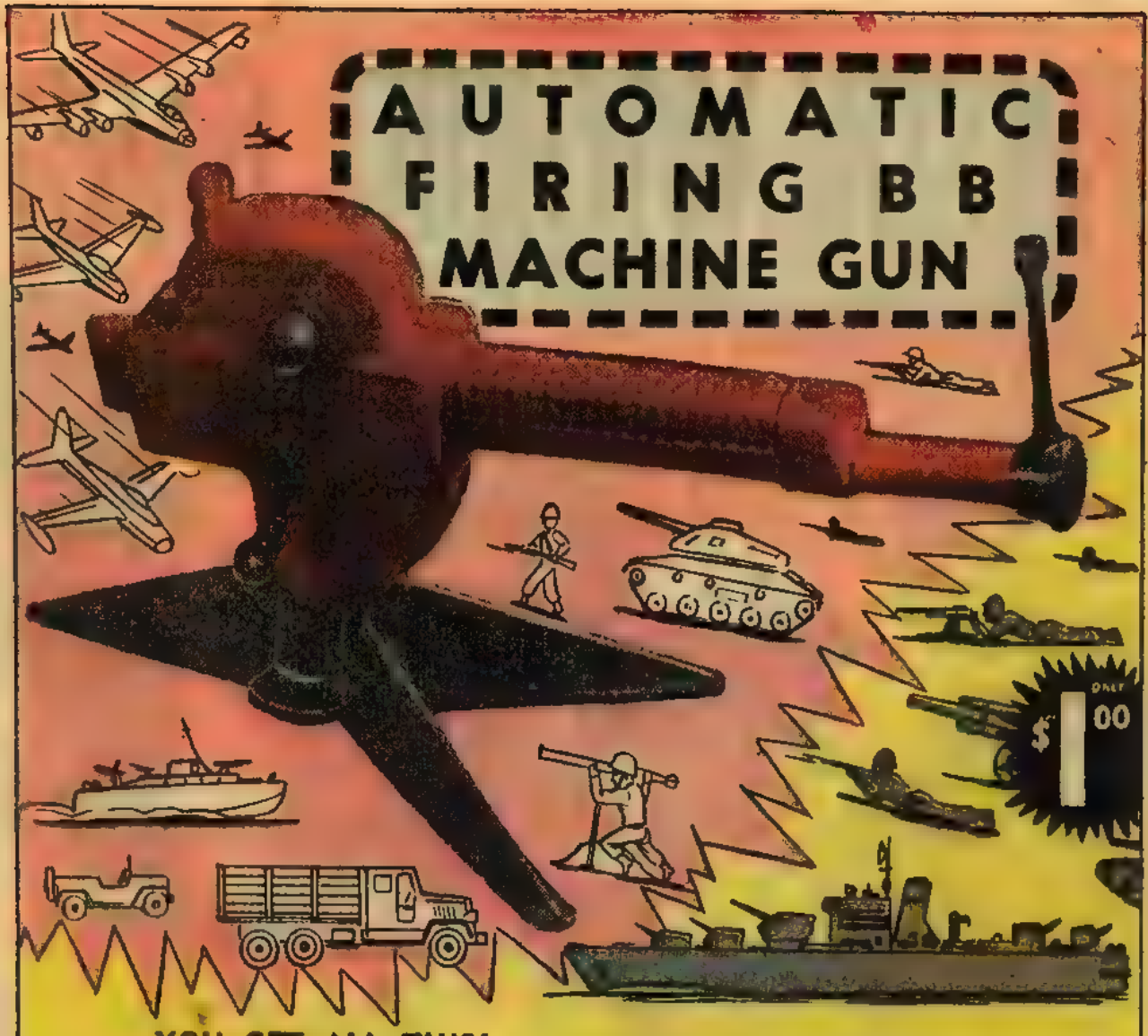
She ran off and reappeared carrying a contraption that looked like a homemade egg crate with a porthole stuck in the center. Cheerfully, she thrust it at him. He staggered back to the truck, his feet tripping through the maze of wires looping down from the rear of the set.

Fortunately, Bob was still working in the basement when he returned. Tenderly, he placed the TV contraption he had just called for on a table at the rear of the store. He hooked it up to a tester.

At first he thought he had hooked himself up, judging from the wild blurps that poured from the set. Ambitiously, he got to work, joining coils and wires, absorbed in the wonderful experiment, using half the information Bob had taught him and half the guesses . . . the intuition part that he liked to teach himself. That's the dangerous way, the wrong way, Bob always scolded.

CONTINUED BEFORE LAST STORY

AUTOMATIC FIRING BB MACHINE GUN



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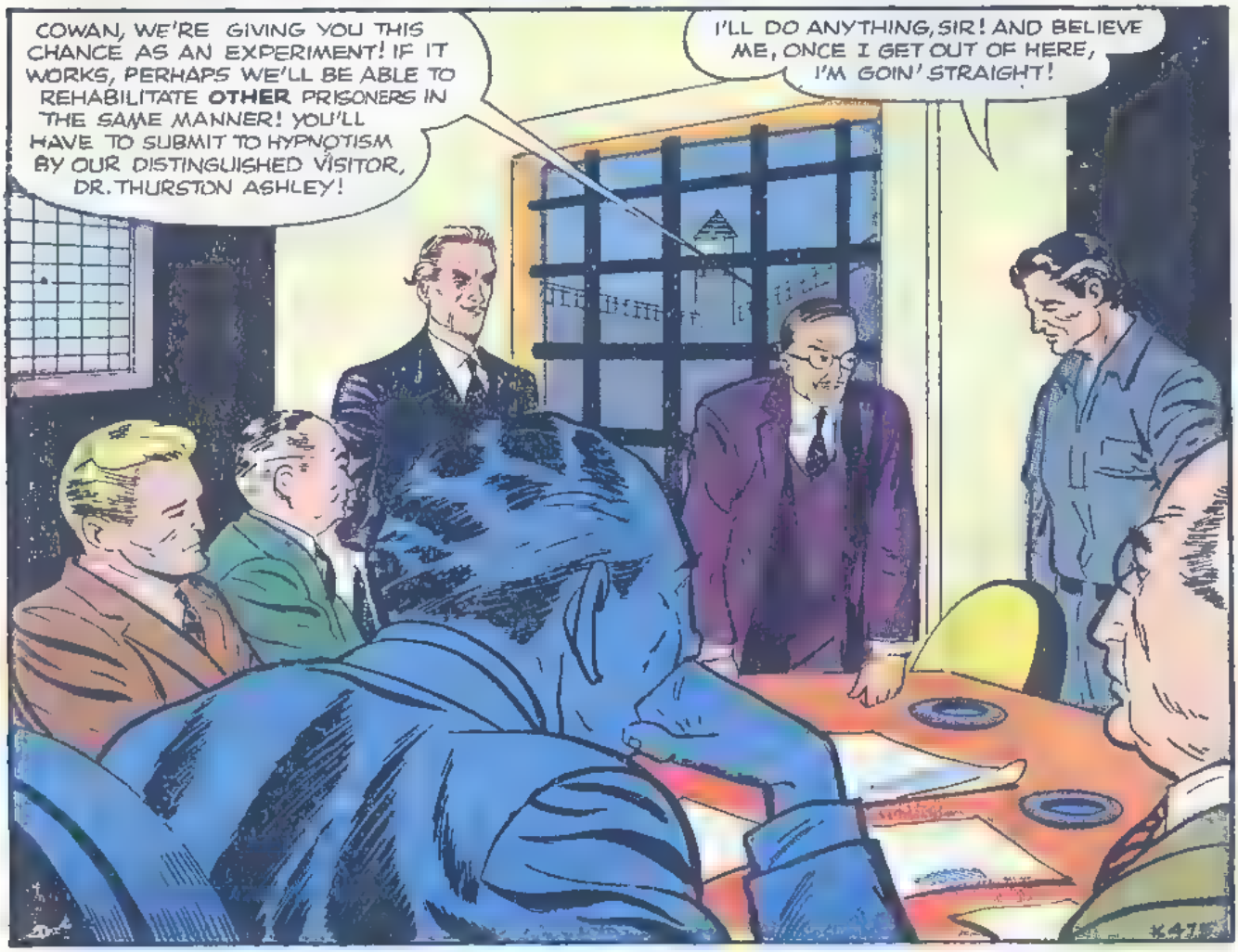
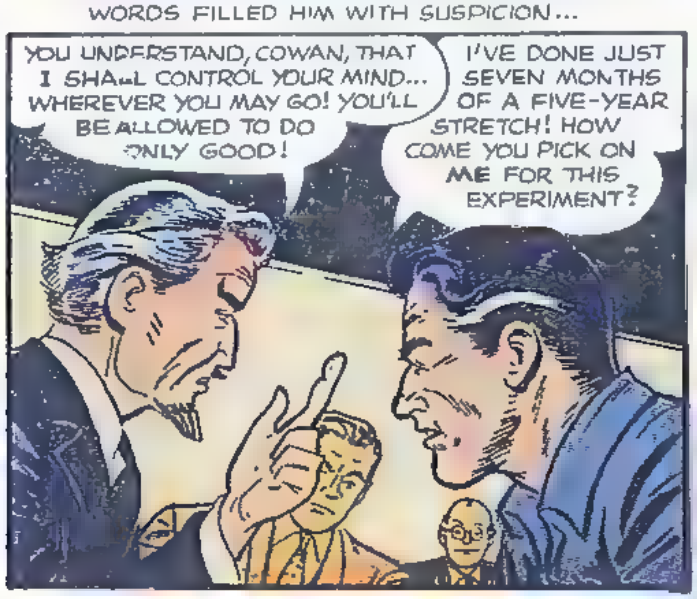
HE WAS A MAN FIGHTING FOR THE POSSESSION OF HIS OWN MIND! BUT HARVEY COWAN FOUND HIMSELF THE VICTOR IN A BATTLE HE NEVER KNEW WAS TAKING PLACE!

PRISON WITHOUT BARS!


COWAN, WE'RE GIVING YOU THIS CHANCE AS AN EXPERIMENT! IF IT WORKS, PERHAPS WE'LL BE ABLE TO REHABILITATE **OTHER** PRISONERS IN THE SAME MANNER! YOU'LL HAVE TO SUBMIT TO HYPNOTISM BY OUR DISTINGUISHED VISITOR, DR. THURSTON ASHLEY!
I'LL DO ANYTHING, SIR! AND BELIEVE ME, ONCE I GET OUT OF HERE, I'M GOIN' STRAIGHT!

HARVEY COWAN WASN'T ONE TO LOOK A GIFT HORSE IN THE MOUTH! BUT DR. ASHLEY'S NEXT WORDS FILLED HIM WITH SUSPICION...


YOU UNDERSTAND, COWAN, THAT I SHALL CONTROL YOUR MIND... WHEREVER YOU MAY GO! YOU'LL BE ALLOWED TO DO ONLY GOOD!
I'VE DONE JUST SEVEN MONTHS OF A FIVE-YEAR STRETCH! HOW COME YOU PICK ON **ME** FOR THIS EXPERIMENT?

WE CHOSE YOU BECAUSE YOU HAVE A GOOD WIFE, COWAN, AND TWO NICE CHILDREN! WE'RE MORE INTERESTED IN GIVING **THEM** A BREAK... IF DR. ASHLEY CAN KEEP YOU OUT OF TROUBLE!

THE HYPNOTIST AND THE CONVICT WERE LED TO A DARK ROOM BY A GUARD...

...KEEP WATCHING THE METAL DISC, HARVEY COWAN! YOU DON'T SEE ME NOW! YOU HEAR ONLY MY VOICE! WHEN I CALL TO YOU, NO MATTER HOW FAR AWAY, YOU WILL **OBEY** MY COMMANDS, HARVEY!

THUS, HAVING RELINQUISHED HIS WILL TO ANOTHER MAN, HARVEY WAS RETURNED TO HIS FAMILY...

I WAS SO HAPPY WHEN THEY TOLD ME ABOUT DR. ASHLEY PUTTING YOU IN A TRANCE LIKE HE DID, HARVEY! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS TO ME AND TO LITTLE WALLY AND BERNICE!

I KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO **ME**, ABBIE! IT MEANS I'M **FREE**, AND NO OLD MAN IS GOING TO CONTROL MY MIND! THERE'S PLENTY OF EASY DOUGH TO BE PICKED UP IN THIS TOWN AND I'M THE BOY THAT'S GOIN' TO DO THE PICKIN'!

LISTEN, HARVEY COWAN! YOU CAN DO NO WRONG! YOU WILL GO OUT EARLY IN THE MORNING! YOU'LL SEEK EMPLOYMENT IN THE WORK FOR WHICH YOU WERE TRAINED IN THE PENITENTIARY!

NO! THEY'LL SEND YOU BACK TO PRISON!

I HEARD HIS VOICE IN MY BRAIN, ABBIE, TELLIN' ME I'VE **GOT** TO GET A JOB! WELL, I WON'T! NOBODY CAN MAKE ME DO ANYTHING I **DON'T WANT** TO DO!

OH, HARVEY...

HARVEY BATTLED FOR CONTROL OF HIS MIND, BUT NEXT MORNING HE YIELDED TO THE URGE TO SEEK HONEST EMPLOYMENT...

I'VE LEVELED WITH YOU, MR. EMORY! NOW ALL I'M ASKIN' IS A CHANCE TO PROVE I'M A GOOD MACHINIST, READY TO DO A GOOD DAY'S WORK!

WE ALL MAKE MISTAKES, COWAN! ONLY A FOOL MAKES THE **SAME** BAD MISTAKE **TWICE**! YOU CAN START TO WORK RIGHT AWAY!

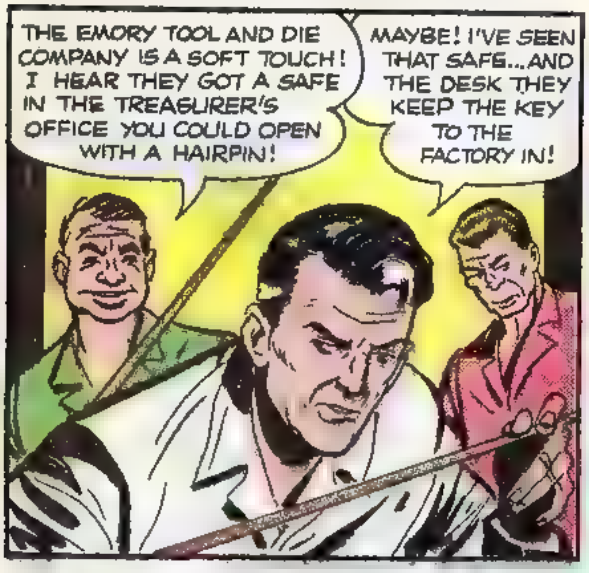
HE DID AS HIS MIND WAS COMMANDED, BUT HARVEY FOUND SATISFACTION EVEN IN HIS DEFEAT...

HAVIN' AN HONEST JOB'S NOT A BAD IDEA! IT'LL BE A GOOD COVER FOR ANY SHADY BUSINESS I GET MIXED UP IN! WHO CAN SAY I'VE PULLED ANYTHING CROOKED WHEN I GOT TO OBEY OLD DOC ASHLEY!

IF YOU HAVE NO JOB YET, HARVEY COWAN, YOU WILL KEEP LOOKING FOR ONE! IF YOU **ARE** WORKING, YOU WILL DO YOUR BEST TO MAKE GOOD!

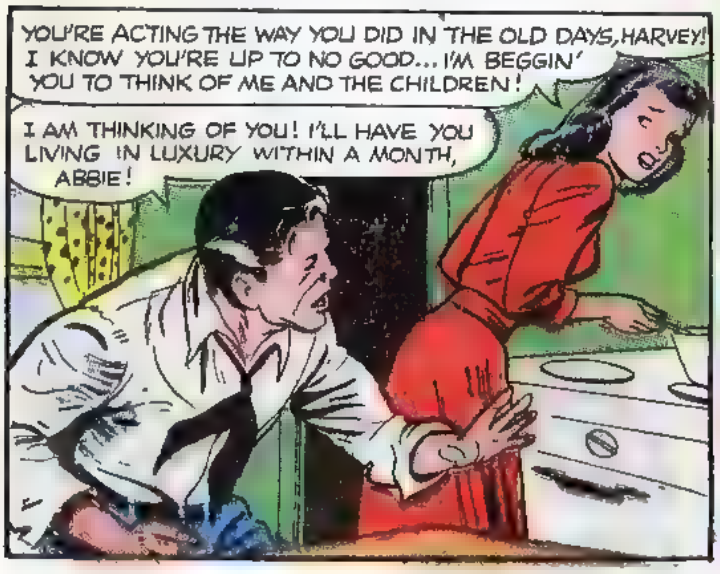
I'LL MAKE GOOD, DOC! I GOT PLENTY OF WAYS TO GET RICH IN A BIG HURRY... AND WHEN THE TIME COMES, **YOU WON'T STOP ME!**

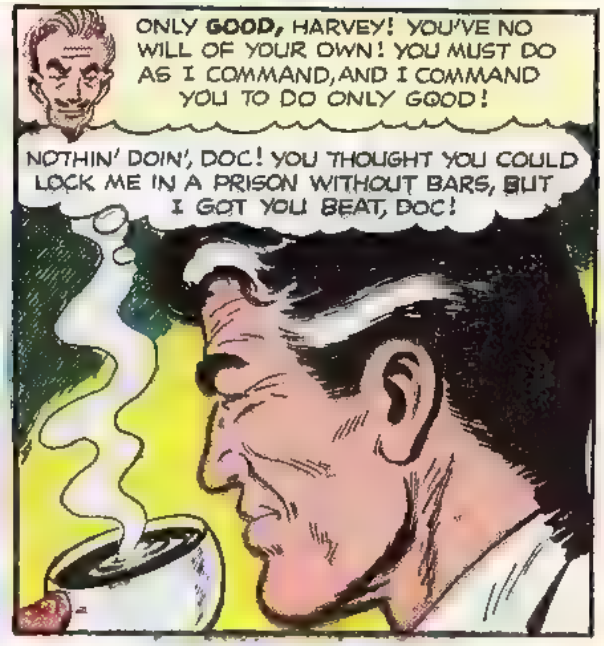
HARVEY'S TIME FOR QUICK MONEY CAME A FEW NIGHTS LATER, WHEN HE RAN INTO THREE OLD PALS AT FANSON'S POOL ROOM...


THE EMORY TOOL AND DIE COMPANY IS A SOFT TOUCH! I HEAR THEY GOT A SAFE IN THE TREASURER'S OFFICE YOU COULD OPEN WITH A HAIRPIN!
MAYBE! I'VE SEEN THAT SAFE...AND THE DESK THEY KEEP THE KEY TO THE FACTORY IN!

WELL, WHAT DO YOU SAY, HARVEY?
THEY GET THE PAYROLL IN THURSDAY AFTERNOON! IT STAYS IN THE SAFE 'TILL FRIDAY MORNIN' AND I SAY A HUNDRED GRAND IS WORTH PICKIN' UP!

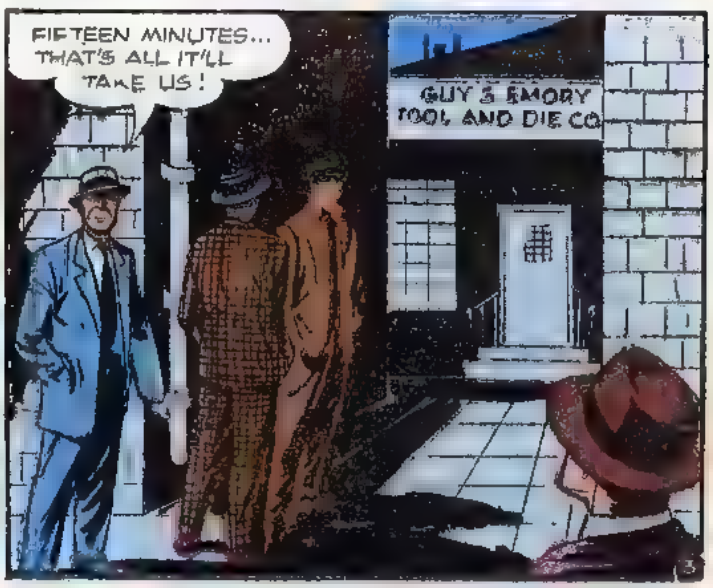
IT SEEMED TO ABBIE COWAN THAT HER HUSBAND WAS WINNING THE BATTLE TO MASTER HIS OWN MIND! AND ABBIE WAS VERY WORRIED...


YOU'RE ACTING THE WAY YOU DID IN THE OLD DAYS, HARVEY! I KNOW YOU'RE UP TO NO GOOD... I'M BEGGIN' YOU TO THINK OF ME AND THE CHILDREN!
I AM THINKING OF YOU! I'LL HAVE YOU LIVING IN LUXURY WITHIN A MONTH, ABBIE!


ONLY GOOD, HARVEY! YOU'VE NO WILL OF YOUR OWN! YOU MUST DO AS I COMMAND, AND I COMMAND YOU TO DO ONLY GOOD!
NOTHIN' DOIN', DOC! YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD LOCK ME IN A PRISON WITHOUT BARS, BUT I GOT YOU BEAT, DOC!

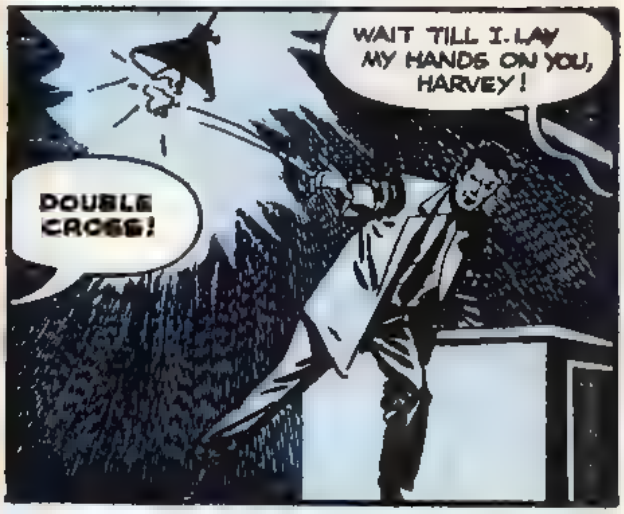
ONE MORNING, ABBIE SAW AN ITEM ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE NEWSPAPER THAT CAUSED HER GRAVE CONCERN...

HARVEY COWAN'S MIND WAS ON OTHER THINGS! HE WAS THINKING OF A $100,000 PAYROLL! AND TWO WEEKS LATER...

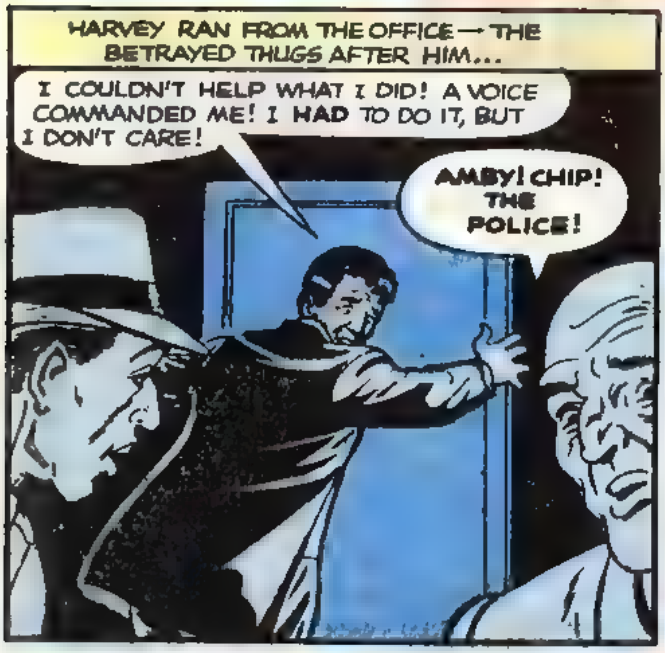


EVERYTHING SEEMED TO BE GOING SMOOTHLY, UNTIL THE WORK ON THE SAFE HAD BEGUN! THEN THE VOICE CAME AGAIN TO HARVEY'S MIND! IT CAME LOUD AND CLEAR...

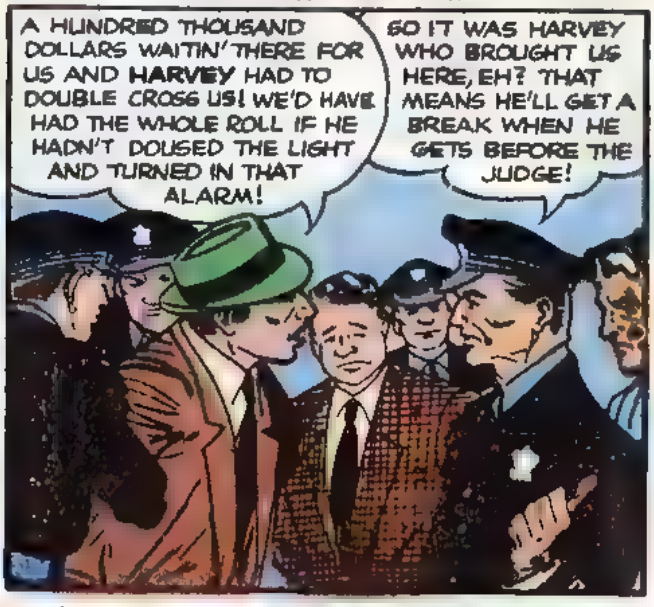
SUDDENLY, IT WAS AS THOUGH HARVEY HAD LOST ALL CONTROL OF HIS WILL! HE SWUNG AT THE OVERHEAD LIGHT, SMASHED IT AND IN THE DARKNESS, HE FELT FOR THE ALARM BUTTON, PRESSED IT! OUTSIDE, THERE WAS A CLANGING OF A GONG...



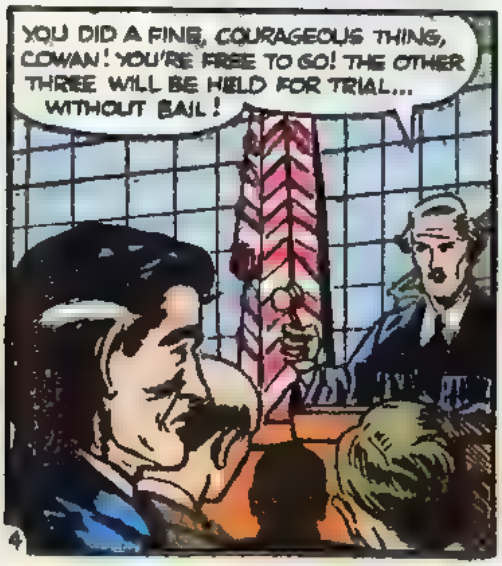
HARVEY RAN FROM THE OFFICE — THE BETRAYED THUGS AFTER HIM...



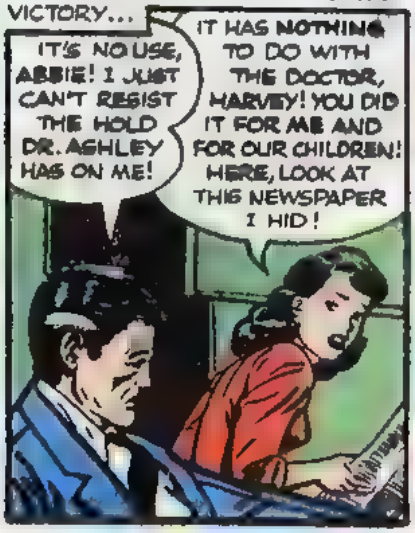
THE POLICE HAD NO TROUBLE SUBDUING THE BEWILDERED MOBSTERS...

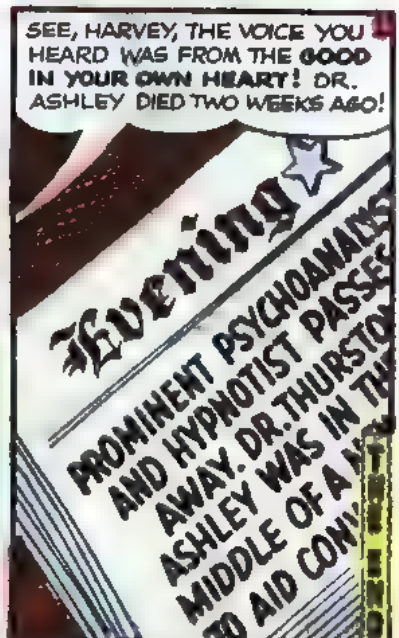

A HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS WAITIN' THERE FOR US AND HARVEY HAD TO DOUBLE CROSS US! WE'D HAVE HAD THE WHOLE ROLL IF HE HADN'T DOUSED THE LIGHT AND TURNED IN THAT ALARM!
SO IT WAS HARVEY WHO BROUGHT US HERE, EH? THAT MEANS HE'LL GET A BREAK WHEN HE GETS BEFORE THE JUDGE!

HARVEY'S ACTIONS DID HIM MUCH GOOD, FOR THE ARRESTING SERGEANT TOLD THE JUDGE HOW HE HAD HELPED THE POLICE!



IT NO LONGER SEEMED TO MATTER TO HARVEY COWAN THAT HE'D LOST THE FIGHT FOR CONTROL OF HIS MIND! BUT ABBIE, HIS WIFE, KNEW THAT HARVEY HAD WON A GREAT VICTORY...


IT'S NO USE, ABBIE! I JUST CAN'T RESIST THE HOLD DR. ASHLEY HAS ON ME!
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE DOCTOR, HARVEY! YOU DID IT FOR ME AND FOR OUR CHILDREN! HERE, LOOK AT THIS NEWSPAPER I HID!


SEE, HARVEY, THE VOICE YOU HEARD WAS FROM THE GOOD IN YOUR OWN HEART! DR. ASHLEY DIED TWO WEEKS AGO!
Evening
PROMINENT PSYCHOANALYS
AND HYPNOTIST PASSES
AWAY. DR. THURSTO
ASHLEY WAS IN TH
MIDDLE OF A
TO AID CON

Free

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1 **WORLD MAP** authentic Mercator projection map, used by air and sea navigators.

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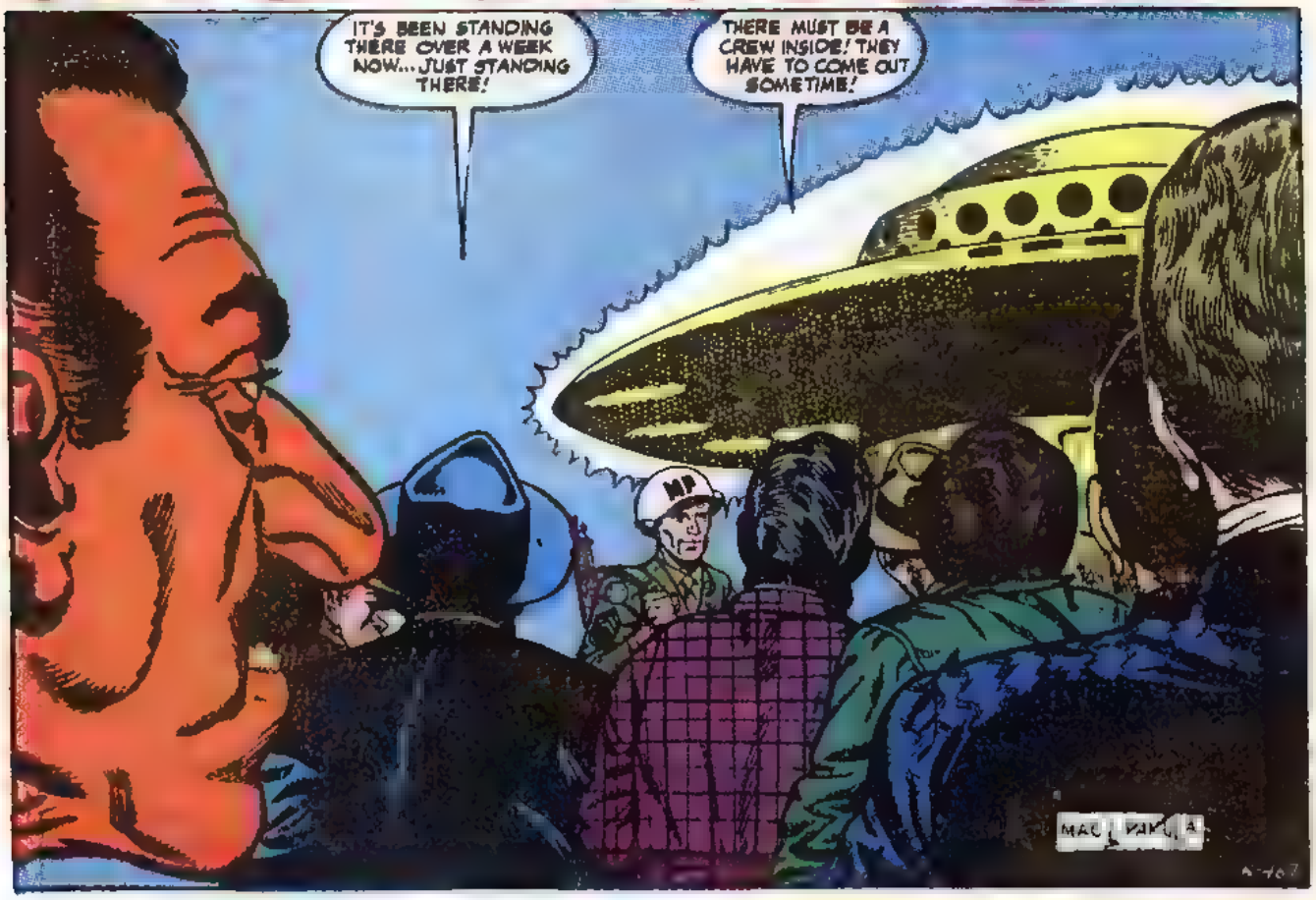
AT FIRST, A MERE SPECK ON THE LENS OF THE EARTH'S HIGHEST-POWERED TELESCOPE... IT HAD GRADUALLY ASSUMED DEFINITE SHAPE AS A FLYING SAUCER VISIBLE EVEN TO THE NAKED EYE! AND THEN IT HAD LANDED ON EARTH!

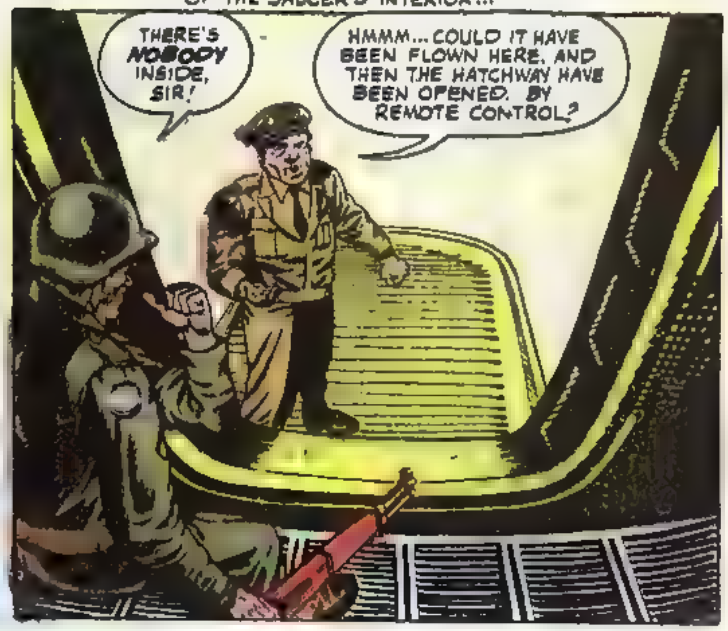
THE UNSEEN



SUDDENLY, A SHARP OUTCRY RIVETED ALL EYES ON THE GLEAMING HULL...

A MOMENT LATER, A PUZZLED SIGH ROSE FROM THE THRONG...

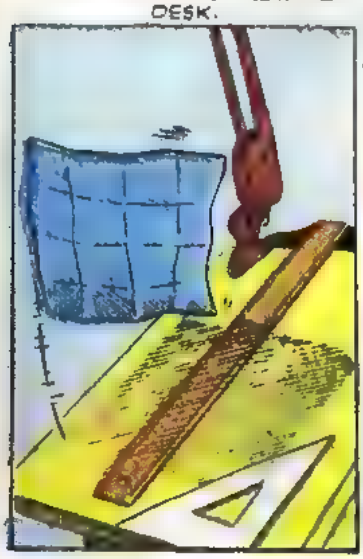
AFTER THE MILITARY UNIT ON HAND HAD MADE A THOROUGH SEARCH OF THE SAUCER'S INTERIOR...



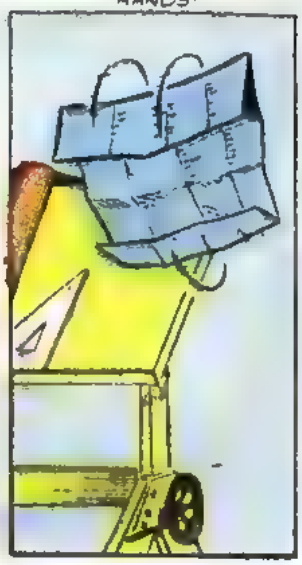
REMOTE CONTROL! THAT SEEMED THE ANSWER! THE THRONGS DEPARTED, AND THE SOLDIERS ROPED OFF THE SAUCER...

BUT THE VERY NEXT DAY, AT A NEARBY RESEARCH INSTITUTE...

BUT BEFORE THE SCIENTISTS' WIDENING EYES, IN THAT DRAFTLESS LABORATORY THE BLUEPRINT KEPT RISING FROM THE DESK.



.. WAS FOLDED WITH DELIBERATE NEATNESS IN MID-AIR AS IF BY UNSEEN HANDS!

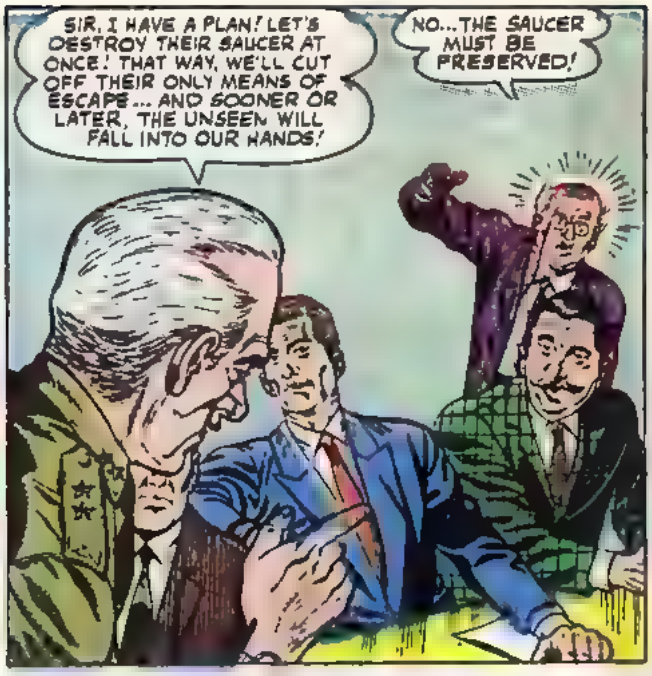


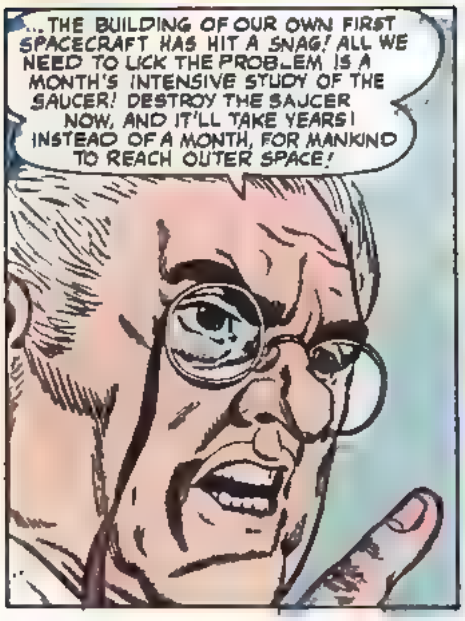
...FLOATED. OR WAS CARRIED THE FULL LENGTH OF THE ROOM!

...AND PASSED THROUGH THE DOOR THAT HAD SWUNG OPEN AT THE PRESSURE OF AN UNSEEN SHOULDER!

When this mysterious phenomenon had been reported to the highest government council...

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS, GENTLEMEN? THERE WERE BEINGS ON THE SAUCER... BUT THEY WERE INVISIBLE! AND THEY'RE AT LARGE AMONG US!


SIR, I HAVE A PLAN! LET'S DESTROY THEIR SAUCER AT ONCE! THAT WAY, WE'LL CUT OFF THEIR ONLY MEANS OF ESCAPE... AND SOONER OR LATER, THE UNSEEN WILL FALL INTO OUR HANDS!
NO...THE SAUCER MUST BE PRESERVED!

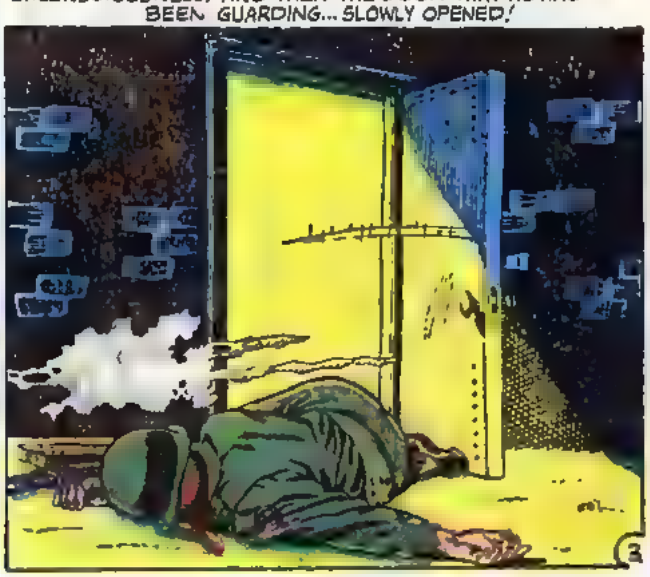

...THE BUILDING OF OUR OWN FIRST SPACECRAFT HAS HIT A SNAG! ALL WE NEED TO LICK THE PROBLEM IS A MONTH'S INTENSIVE STUDY OF THE SAUCER! DESTROY THE SAUCER NOW, AND IT'LL TAKE YEARS! INSTEAD OF A MONTH, FOR MANKIND TO REACH OUTER SPACE!

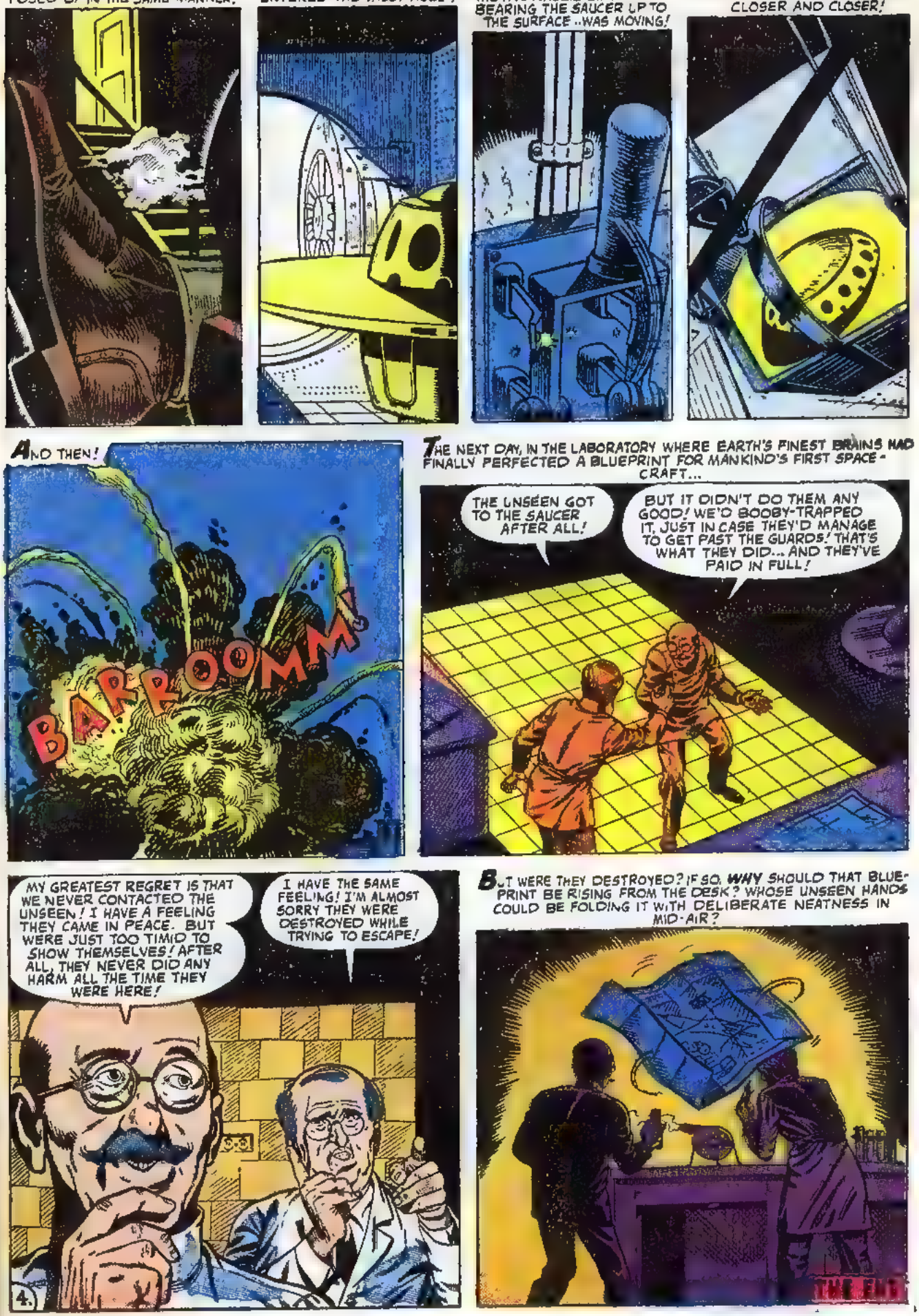
It was a difficult dilemma to resolve! Which should be given priority? Capture of the unseen ...or mankind's ambition to soar up into space? Finally...

And so the saucer was moved to a heavily guarded, deep underground vault...

A whole month passed, without any sign of the invisible aliens! But then, one night, outside the vault where the saucer was hidden...

One whiff of vapor from a weapon directed at him by an unseen hand, and the guard crumpled into unconsciousness! And then the door that he had been guarding... slowly opened!




THE INTERIOR GUARD WAS DISPOSED OF IN THE SAME MANNER!
NOW THE UNSEEN HAD ENTERED THE VAULT ITSELF!
NOW THE LEVER CONTROLLING THE HYDRAULIC LIFT FOR BEARING THE SAUCER UP TO THE SURFACE ..WAS MOVING!
THE SAUCER ROSE PONDEROUSLY TOWARD THE SURFACE! CLOSER AND CLOSER!
AND THEN!
BARROOMM!
THE NEXT DAY, IN THE LABORATORY WHERE EARTH'S FINEST BRAINS HAD FINALLY PERFECTED A BLUEPRINT FOR MANKIND'S FIRST SPACE-CRAFT...
THE UNSEEN GOT TO THE SAUCER AFTER ALL!
BUT IT DIDN'T DO THEM ANY GOOD! WE'D BOOBY-TRAPPED IT, JUST IN CASE THEY'D MANAGE TO GET PAST THE GUARDS! THAT'S WHAT THEY DID... AND THEY'VE PAID IN FULL!
MY GREATEST REGRET IS THAT WE NEVER CONTACTED THE UNSEEN! I HAVE A FEELING THEY CAME IN PEACE. BUT WERE JUST TOO TIMID TO SHOW THEMSELVES! AFTER ALL, THEY NEVER DID ANY HARM ALL THE TIME THEY WERE HERE!
I HAVE THE SAME FEELING! I'M ALMOST SORRY THEY WERE DESTROYED WHILE TRYING TO ESCAPE!
4.
BUT WERE THEY DESTROYED? IF SO, WHY SHOULD THAT BLUEPRINT BE RISING FROM THE DESK? WHOSE UNSEEN HANDS COULD BE FOLDING IT WITH DELIBERATE NEATNESS IN MID-AIR?
THE END

THE WARLORD HAD BEEN DEFEATED! BUT HIS ENEMIES WOULD NEVER FIND HIM! HE HAD DISCOVERED...

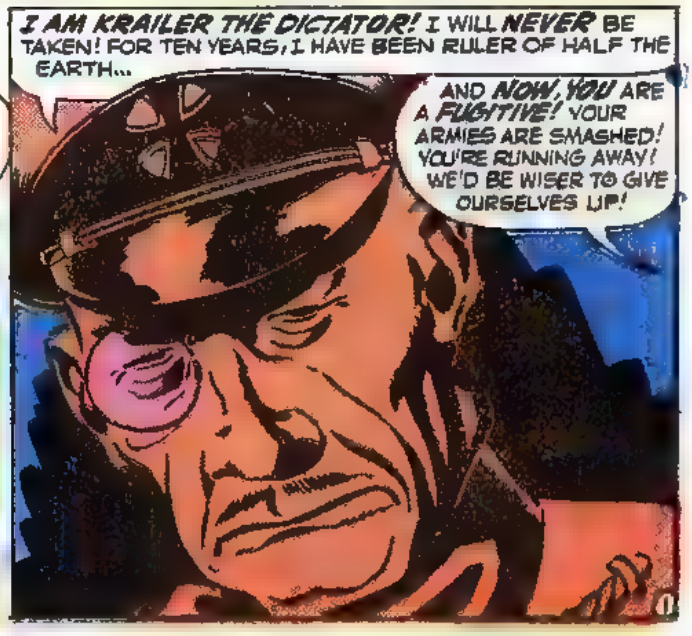
THE PERFECT HIDEOUT!

A STRANGE *JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY!*

K6658

SOMEWHERE ABOVE THE PACIFIC, THE CARRIER-BASED FIGHTERS FOUND THE DICTATOR'S PLANE! AND INSIDE IT, FOUR MEN REACTED, EACH ACCORDING TO HIS NATURE...

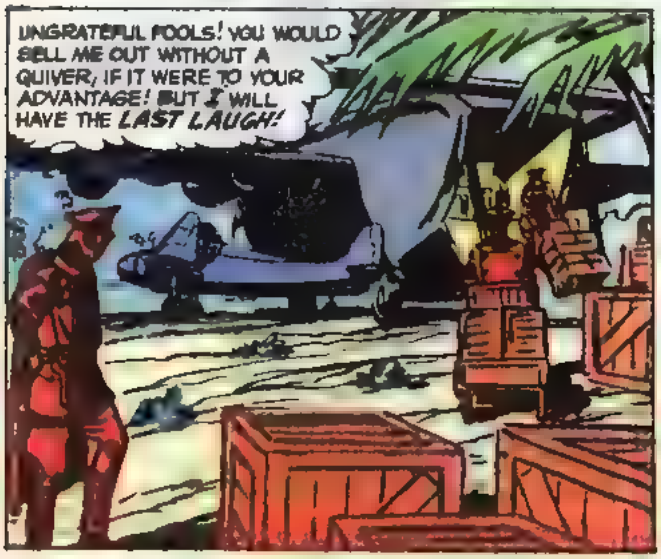
THEY'RE DROPPING BACK! BUT THEY'LL COME AFTER US AGAIN! THEY'LL SHOOT US DOWN!
THEY WON'T SHOOT US DOWN! WE'RE TOO FAST! I HAD THIS SHIP SPECIALLY BUILT! I HAVEN'T COME THIS FAR ONLY TO BE DESTROYED!


I AM KRAILER THE DICTATOR! I WILL *NEVER* BE TAKEN! FOR TEN YEARS, I HAVE BEEN RULER OF HALF THE EARTH...
AND *NOW, YOU* ARE A *FUGITIVE!* YOUR ARMIES ARE SMASHED! YOU'RE RUNNING AWAY! WE'D BE WISER TO GIVE OURSELVES UP!

GIVE UP? FOOLS! COWARDS! TO THINK THAT YOU WERE MY CHIEF ADVISERS! IN AN HOUR, WE WILL BE AT MY ISLAND! WE WILL BE SAFE! IT IS ON NO CHART! NO ONE WILL EVER FIND US!

BUT EVEN I DON'T KNOW WHERE THIS ISLAND IS! HOW CAN WE BE CERTAIN?
I WAS WISE NOT TO TELL YOU WHERE IT IS! I CAN SEE THAT, NOW! BUT IT EXISTS! I WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU! EVEN IF YOU DON'T DESERVE IT!

THREE MEN WHO WERE ALARMED... AND ONE WHO WAS NOT! IT WAS A STRANGE CREW WHO LANDED, LATER, SOMEWHERE IN THE EMPTY GREEN WASTE...



WE'RE FINISHED...EVERYTHING HAS BEEN UNLOADED! THERE ARE ENOUGH SUPPLIES TO LAST TWO LIFETIMES! NOW...
NOW, YOU WILL BE GOOD ENOUGH TO UNBUCKLE YOUR GUN BELTS AND LET THEM FALL, GENTLEMEN!

EXCELLENT! AND NOW, I THINK IT WOULD BE WISE IF YOU WOULD REMOVE ALL OF THE AMMUNITION FROM THE BIG SHIP!
REMOVE...BUT WHY? KRAILER, WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU? YOU'RE BEHAVING LIKE A MADMAN!

BEFORE, I NEEDED YOU! BUT WHY SHOULD I SHARE WITH YOU NOW? AFTER YOU HAVE UNLOADED THE AMMUNITION, YOU WILL TAKE OFF...
TAKE OFF? BUT TO WHERE? YOU CHARTERED OUR COURSE! WE WILL HAVE NO PLACE TO GO, EXCEPT BACK TO THE MAINLAND...TO ARREST!
BUT THAT'S JUST WHAT YOU WANT, ISN'T IT? ALL RIGHT...IT'S TRUE! WE DO HATE YOU! WE ALWAYS HAVE!
SPARE ME YOUR ANGER! YOU WILL UNLOAD THE AMMUNITION... NOW! I HAVE NO DESIRE TO BE SHOT DOWN FROM THE AIR!
WE NEVER TRUSTED YOU! AND WE WERE RIGHT! WE FELT THAT YOU'D FIND SOME WAY TO GET RID OF US....
AND I HAVE! DO YOU PREFER PRISON... OR THIS?
BUT THAT WAS A NARROW CHOICE, AT BEST! SO, SOON...
THREE MEN FLEW TOWARD IMPRISONMENT AND OBLIVION...AND THE DICTATOR FOUND THE THOUGHT QUITE AMUSING!
BON VOYAGE, GENTLEMEN! TOO BAD YOU NEVER ASKED WHY I BROUGHT ALONG THIS SMALL PLANE! YOU WILL STAY IN PRISON! BUT ONE DAY I WILL FLY BACK... A FREE MAN!
THERE WAS ONLY ONE SMALL FLAW IN THE DICTATOR'S PLEASURE! HE HAD UNDERESTIMATED HIS "FRIENDS"..
THE FOOL! AND HE THOUGHT US STUPID! WE'LL ALL BE RELEASED SOMEDAY! BUT...
BUT THE DICTATOR WOULD NOT BE RELEASED... NOT EVER! HIS "FRIENDS" HAD SEEN TO THAT!
FUEL

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Dept D-8 HEMPSTEAD, L I., N Y

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...CONTINUED

A wild rainbow of color filled the porthole screen. Circles inside of circles whirled and suddenly fused into the likeness of a man of metal bolts and riveted parts.

"These crazy commercials!" Johnny marveled.

"It is almost time for the Masters to beam us in on the Earth planet. All metal men of Mechania be sure to listen tonight to the great invasion plans of our Master spies. They will brief us tonight, and the great forces of Mechania will conquer Earth."

The mechanical man talked! A loud jangling noise accompanied the metallic ring of the voice, as the arms of the metal man gestured.

Johnny's mouth fell open. He could hardly speak when Bob dashed upstairs, attracted by the noisy clatter of the Mechania television set.

"Where did you get that thing!" he shouted.

Johnny explained as best he could, while the two of them watched in fascination as the armies of Mechania performed a mass drill demonstration on the screen.

"It's a mixup," said Bob. You had the address right, but the landlady gave you the wrong TV set. A woman by the name of Peters called. The landlady assumed it was Masters because she heard the muffled sounds of what we just *saw!* Do you realize our entire planet is in danger?"

"Planet, nothing! What about *us?* When these guys Masters find out . . ."

Bob unplugged the set from the wall. He rushed to the phone. "Let me have the police . . . the F.B.I. . . . anyone. Look, my brother and I need protection. We . . ."

"It's too late," Johnny said. "They're here. Maybe we can bluff them for a while."

The front door had opened and two very tall, brotherly looking men stalked toward them. They moved their legs and arms at the same time, and their features were very sharp.

"We have come for our television set. We are the Masters."

"You're welcome to it," said Bob. "It was taken by mistake. My brother . . ."

"Let us not waste time. You are Earth Spies against

Mechania. You thought you would find us out, but we are prepared to send you into Mechania as our prisoners. At seven o'clock, we will beam you in, and the metaxial cable will convert you through the atmosphere and deposit you into our Sphere."

"You've got us all wrong," Bob protested. "If this is a big joke . . ."

"It is not a big joke, if you look at the Mechania transtelevision set. It is wired and put together for perfect contact as only an expert could accomplish."

The words of praise were small comfort to Johnny. Gloomily he watched as the Masters bent over the set. One plugged it into the wall while the other adjusted the dials. The metal man from Mechania came into focus, then blurred away.

"That's easily fixed," said Johnny. "A simple screwdriver . . ."

"Hurry up and perfect this picture. Mechania will make it worth your while . . ."

Johnny's screwdriver contacted the set. A loud roar and a series of sparks shot through the room.

The welcome sight of two competent policemen pulling them from the smoke-filled room renewed Johnny's hope in the future. The police had traced the call after Bob hung up.

"What happened here?" they asked.

"I guess it's my fault," Johnny admitted. "I shorted the power tube on this set and . . ."

"Now, listen, kid," advised the policeman wisely, "you've gotta be crazy to connect with a power tube. That can blow you right off this earth. Any fool knows that."

Bob put his arm around Johnny's shoulder as they walked back into the store. "Someday, after we get this story to the proper authorities, I'll see to it that you get the credit you deserve. You remembered about the power tube exploding, and you destroyed the Mechania plot when you ruined their invasion weapon . . . that TV set. To me, you're a hero. Say, what's that?"

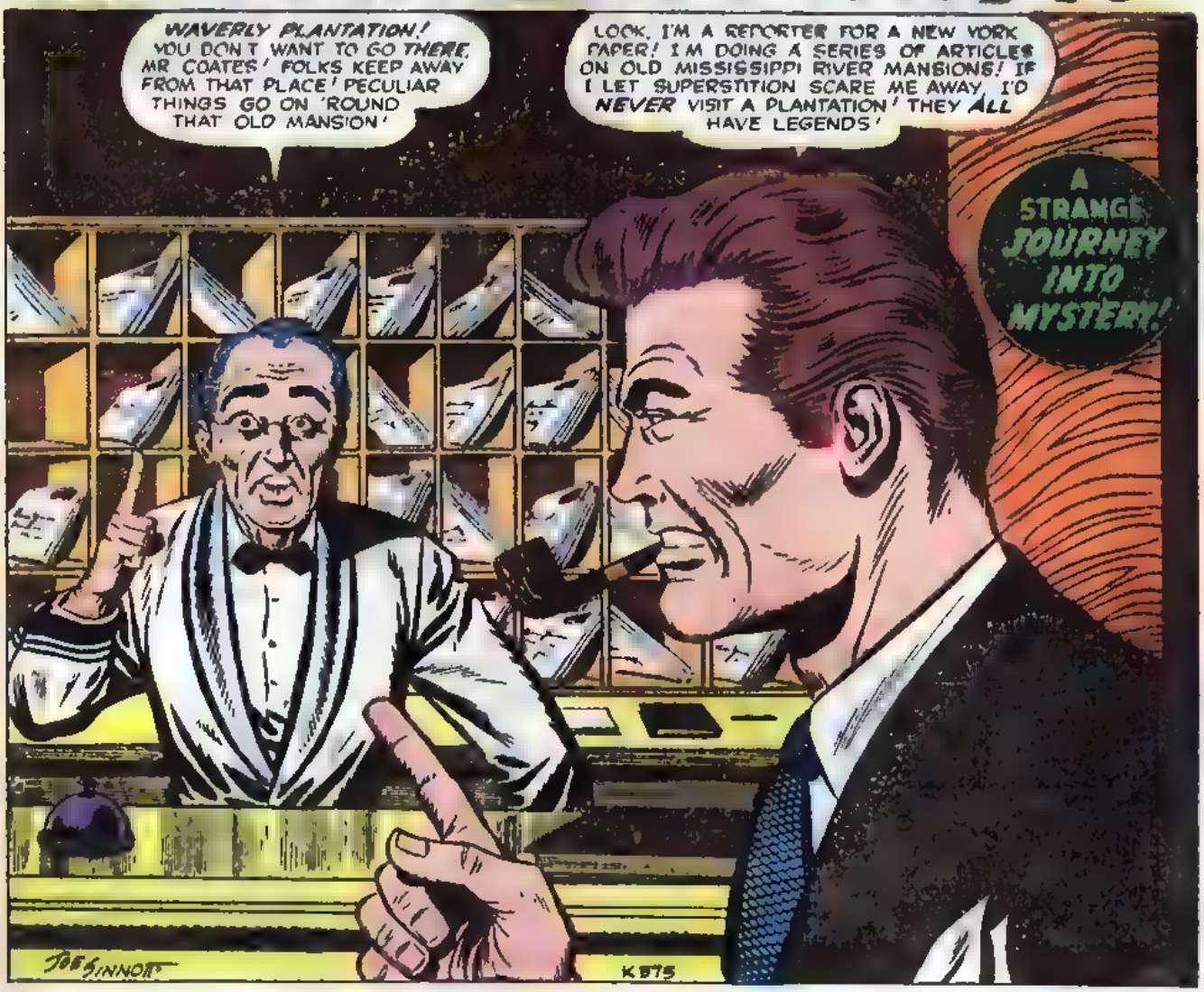
On the floor where each of the Masters had stood were two round metal discs.

Johnny picked them up and tossed one to Bob. "A medal for you and a medal for me. That makes us *both* heroes."

THE END G-452

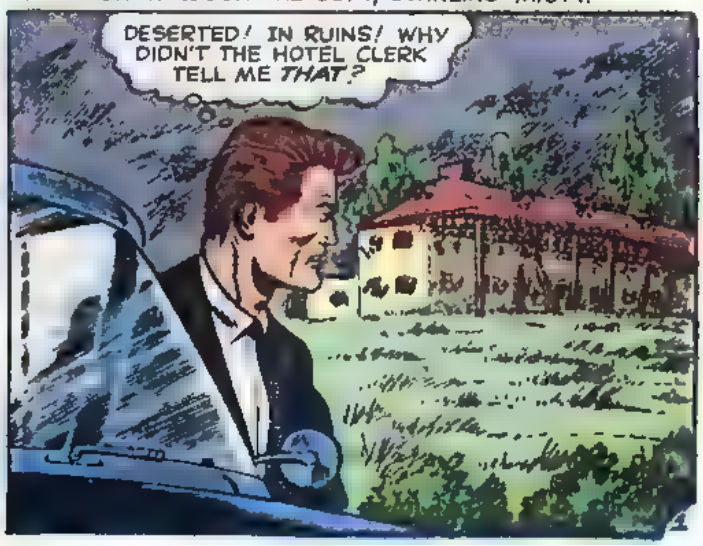
JEFF COATES FOUND THE GREATEST STORY OF HIS CAREER WHEN HE BOARDED THE ANCIENT BOAT DOCKED IN THE COLD, BLEAK GRAYNESS OF THE DAWN! HERE WAS ADVENTURE THAT WOULD MAKE JEFF THE HERO OF THE NEWSPAPER WORLD, BUT HE WAS DESTINED NEVER TO HEAR PRAISES SUNG OF HIS FAME!

THE SWIRLING MIST!


WAVERLY PLANTATION! YOU DON'T WANT TO GO THERE, MR COATES! FOLKS KEEP AWAY FROM THAT PLACE! PECULIAR THINGS GO ON 'ROUND THAT OLD MANSION!
LOOK, I'M A REPORTER FOR A NEW YORK PAPER! I'M DOING A SERIES OF ARTICLES ON OLD MISSISSIPPI RIVER MANSIONS! IF I LET SUPERSTITION SCARE ME AWAY, I'D NEVER VISIT A PLANTATION! THEY ALL HAVE LEGENDS!
A STRANGE JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY!
JOE SINNOTT
KETS

WELL, DON'T SAY YOU WEREN'T WARNED, MR COATES! YOU MUST FOLLOW THE MAIN STREET OUT OF TOWN TO THE FORKED ROAD! BEAR RIGHT TILL YOU COME TO A SIDE ROAD WITH AN OLD SIGN POINTING TO WAVERLY PLANTATION!
THANKS... I'LL FIND IT!

JEFF COATES WAS LIGHTHEARTED AS HE ARRIVED AT WAVERLY PLANTATION EARLY THAT MORNING! BUT HIS HEART SANK AS HE BEHELD THE REMAINS OF THE MANSION THROUGH THE SOFT, SWIRLING MIST..



JUST THEN, THERE CAME FLOATING ON THAT MIST THE EERIE WHISTLE OF AN ANCIENT BOAT...

THAT LOOKS LIKE AN OLD-TIME STEAMBOAT! THAT'D MAKE A TERRIFIC YARN! "OLD-TIMER STILL VISITS MISSISSIPPI PLANTATIONS!"

HELLO, UP THERE! MAY I COME ABOARD?

OH, YES...PLEASE! HURRY!

JEFF BOLTED UP THE GANGPLANK THEN SLOWED DOWN AS HE BEHELD THE LOVELIEST GIRL HE HAD EVER SEEN...

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU! I'M LAURA WAVERLY!

WAVERLY? THEN YOUR FAMILY MUST OWN THAT OLD PLANTATION! I'M AFRAID YOU WERE REALLY EXPECTING SOMEONE ELSE! I'M A REPORTER... JEFF COATES! I WANT TO DO A FEATURE ON THIS BOAT!

DELTA

I NEED YOUR HELP! MY FATHER LOST WAVERLY PLANTATION TO A GAMBLER NAMED LAFARGE! DAD STILL OWES HIM A LOT OF MONEY! LAFARGE SAID HE'D FORGET THE DEBT, IF I MARRY HIM! I DESPISE THAT MAN, JEFF! I'M AFRAID OF HIM!

THIS IS REAL OLD-FASHIONED MELO-DRAMA! ALL RIGHT, LAURA, I'LL GO ALONG WITH THE GAG!

EVEN AS HE WALKED TO THE SALON WITH LAURA, JEFF KNEW HE WAS FALLING IN LOVE WITH HER...

THAT'S LAFARGE AT THE TABLE WITH HIS CRONIES, JEFF! TELL HIM YOU'RE MY FIANCE!

AT FIRST, IT WAS ONLY A JOKE TO JEFF COATES, SOME SORT OF GAME! SO HE PLAYED ALONG IN HIS BEST DRAMATIC STYLE

SEE HERE LAFARGE! THERE'S AN UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN MISS WAVERLY AND ME! I'M NOT LETTING HER GO TO ANOTHER MAN WITHOUT A FIGHT!

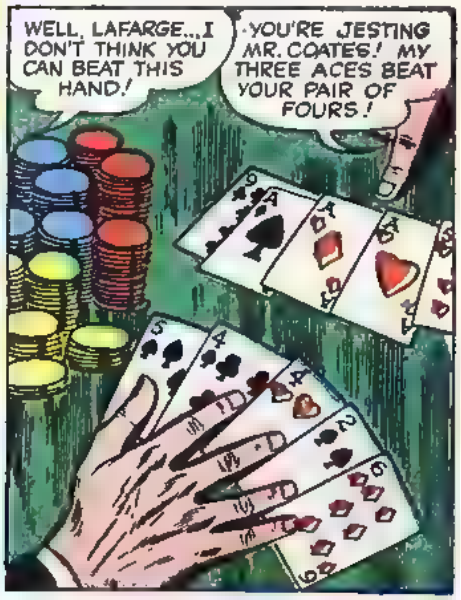
FIGHT, SIR? SURELY THERE'S A MORE GENTLEMANLY WAY TO SETTLE THIS! A GAME OF POKER, SAY...AT ANY STAKES YOU'D LIKE TO WAGER!

THE STAKES, LAFARGE? FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND THE HAND OF MISS LAURA, AGAINST WAVERLY PLANTATION AND HER FATHER'S ENTIRE DEBT!

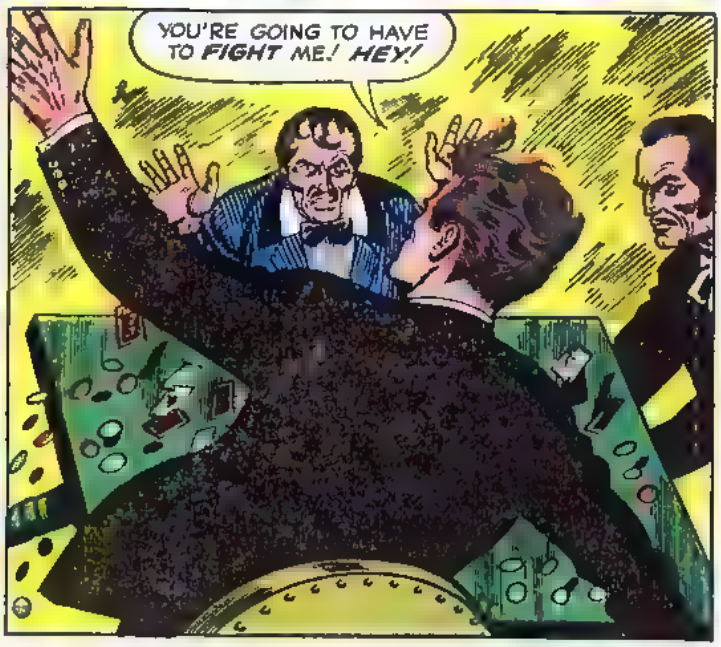
FAIR ENOUGH, SIR! MAURICE, SOME CHIPS FOR THE GENTLEMAN!

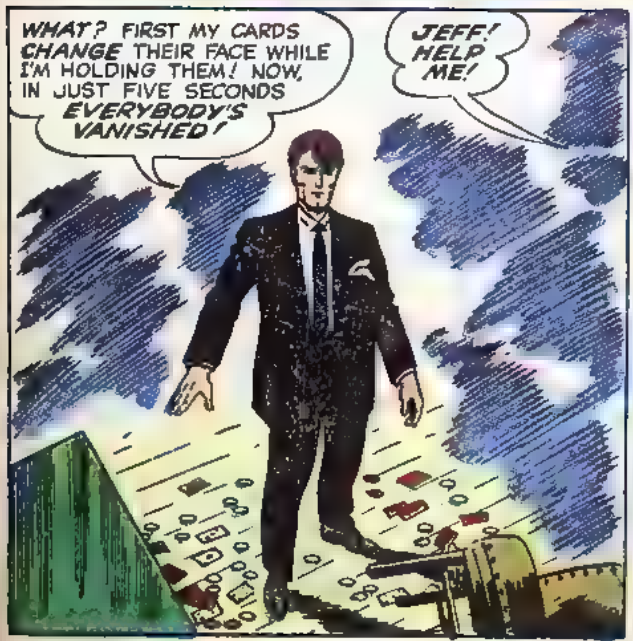
NOW JEFF WATCHED THE GAMBLER DEAL, AND SAW HIS SERIOUSNESS! HE OBSERVED THE TENSENESS OF LAURA AND HER PARENTS, AND HE SENSED SOMEHOW THIS WAS *NOT MAKE-BELIEVE!*

JEFF COULDN'T LOSE, NOT WITH A ROYAL FLUSH!

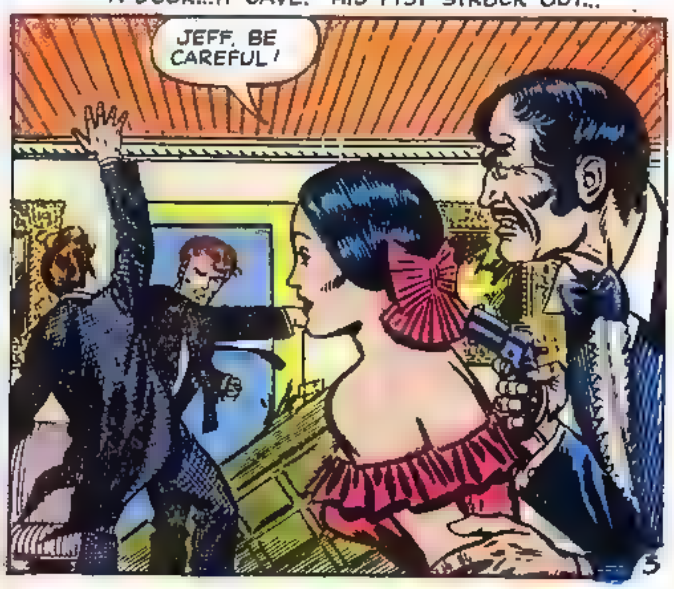


I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU SWITCHED MY *TOP HAND* FOR A *LITTLE PAIR*, LAFARGE, BUT YOU'RE THE SLICKEST *CARD CHEAT* I'VE EVER MET!
YOU LAID DOWN FOURS, COATES! YOU CAN'T PROVE YOU HAD ANYTHING ELSE! YOU'VE LOST EVERYTHING... INCLUDING LAURA WAVERLY!

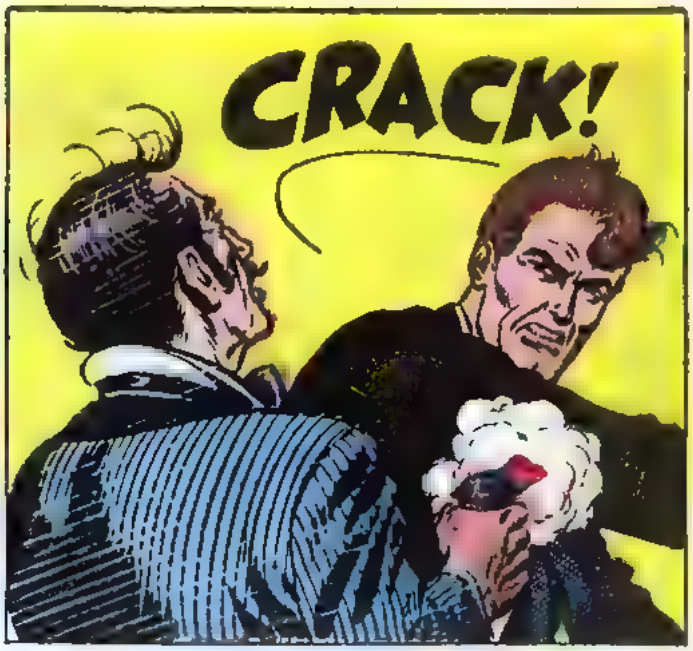




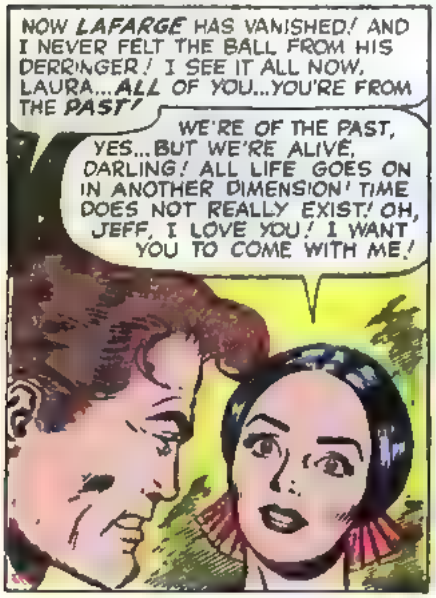
THE CRY FOR HELP CAME AGAIN AS JEFF COATES DASHED TOWARD THE STATEROOM! HE THREW HIS WEIGHT AGAINST A DOOR... IT GAVE! HIS FIST STRUCK OUT...



EACH TIME JEFF'S FIST MET A JAW, ITS OWNER VANISHED.



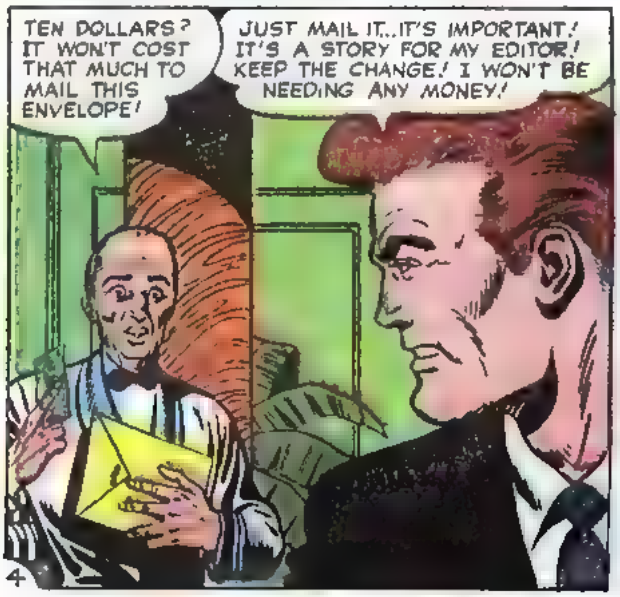
JEFF PANTED HARD AS THE TRUTH DAWNED ON HIM...


NOW LAFARGE HAS VANISHED! AND I NEVER FELT THE BALL FROM HIS DERRINGER! I SEE IT ALL NOW, LAURA... ALL OF YOU... YOU'RE FROM THE PAST!
WE'RE OF THE PAST, YES... BUT WE'RE ALIVE, DARLING! ALL LIFE GOES ON IN ANOTHER DIMENSION! TIME DOES NOT REALLY EXIST! OH, JEFF, I LOVE YOU! I WANT YOU TO COME WITH ME!

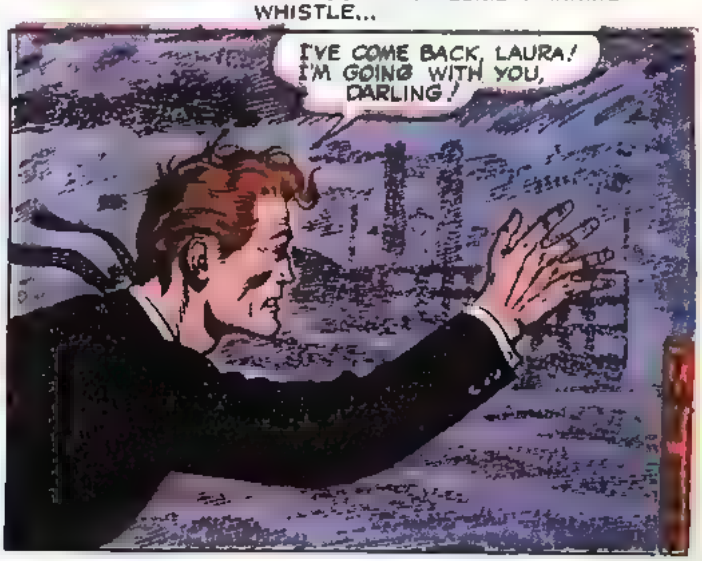
JEFF FLED, AND HE FOUND THAT THE HOURS OF DAY HAD ALSO VANISHED..

HE RETURNED TO HIS ROOM AT THE HOTEL AND WROTE THROUGH THE NIGHT! AND ALL THE WHILE, THE MEMORY OF LAURA WAVERLY TAUNTED HIM...

IT WAS SHORTLY BEFORE DAWN WHEN JEFF COATES HURRIED TO THE LOBBY OF THE HOTEL...


TEN DOLLARS? IT WON'T COST THAT MUCH TO MAIL THIS ENVELOPE!
JUST MAIL IT... IT'S IMPORTANT! IT'S A STORY FOR MY EDITOR! KEEP THE CHANGE! I WON'T BE NEEDING ANY MONEY!

THE DELTA QUEEN WAS STILL THERE WHEN JEFF RAN ALONG THE DOCK, HIS HEART POUNDING WITH HAPPINESS! HE SAW THE BOAT THROUGH THE SWIRLING MIST, AND HE SHOUTED TO MAKE HIMSELF HEARD ABOVE HER EERIE WARNING WHISTLE...



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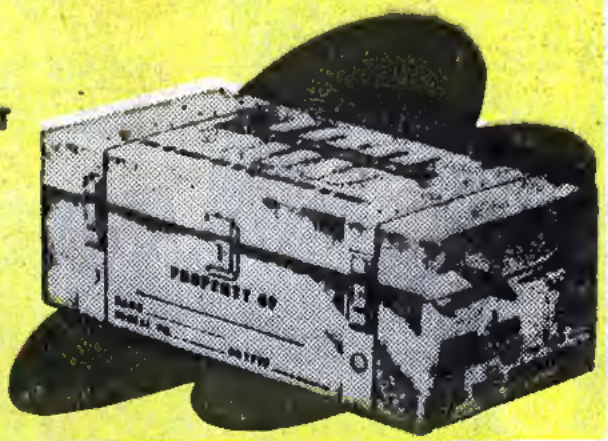

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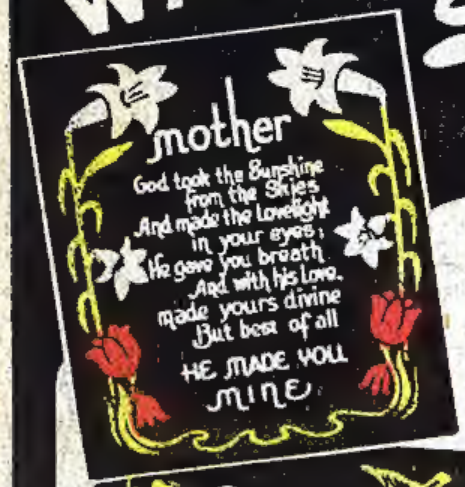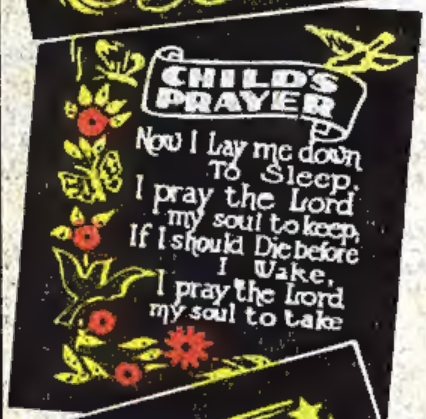

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says John Jackson

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